

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title	North Grove Forest Restoration Project
Brief Description	<p>The North Grove Forest Restoration Project (NGP) at Calaveras Big Trees State Park (CBT) will restore the North Grove giant sequoia forest into a crown fire resistant forest with an open stand structure. By selectively thinning the understory and removing surface and ladder fuels, this restoration project will reduce the high fuel loads in the North Grove that may lead to stand-replacing post-wildfire effects such as sediment delivery into the Big Tree Creek (BTC) watershed. Big Tree Creek flows into White Pines Lake, a public water source. This project will additionally enhance native wildlife, fish and plant habitat and improve visitor enjoyment. Specifically, this project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, thinning from below to reduce ladder and canopy fuels, and to reduce overall stand density; reduce basal area from 270 to 150; reduce stems per acre from up to 400 per acre to 50-70 stems per acre (including pacific dogwoods). • Retain all giant sequoia, black oak, pacific yew and sugar pines. Retain quality downed logs and snags for wildlife habitat. • Retain all live trees 8" diameter at breast height. Larger snags and trees may be removed if selected as hazardous to project work or future prescribed burning operations. • Remove or pile to burn, 60-90 percent of total surface fuel load. Reduce surface woody debris from 35-80 tons/acre to less than 10 tons/acre. <p>PAGE 2 OF 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear all heavy fuels away from the trunks of giant sequoia, pacific yews and large diameter pines to reduce possibility of bark scorch or heat mortality. • Burn piles in the appropriate season and weather conditions with burn permits and smoke management permit from Cal Fire and Calaveras Air Pollution Control District. <p>All work will be accomplished by hand crews using chainsaws, loppers and other hand</p>

	tools from both the California Conservation Corp (CCC) and inmates from the California Department of Corrections (CDC) Vallecito Conservation Camp. A State Park Environmental Scientist will be on site during all work hours for project coordination, daily oversight and public education.
Total Requested Amount	349,008.00
Other Fund Proposed	9,400.00
Total Project Cost	358,408.00
Project Category	Site Improvement/Restoration
Project Area/Size	125
Project Area Type	Acres
Have you submitted to SNC this fiscal year?	No
Is this application related to other SNC funding?	No

Project Results
Resource protection

Project Purpose	Project Purpose Percent
Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (Fire)	
Water Quality	

County
Calaveras

Sub Region
South Central

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Ms. Liz Steller,
Title	
Organization	California Department of Parks & Recreation, Central Valley District
Primary Address	22708 Broadway, , Columbia, CA, 95310
Primary Phone/Fax	209-536-5932 Ext.
Primary Email	lstel@parks.ca.gov

PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION

Project Location

Address:	1170 East Highway 4, , , Arnold, CA, 95223 United States
Water Agency:	Calaveras County Water District
Latitude:	38.16
Longitude:	-120.18
Congressional District:	n/a
Senate:	n/a
Assembly:	n/a
Within City Limits:	No
City Name:	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grant Application Type

Grant Application Type:
Category One Site Improvement

PROJECT OTHER CONTACTS INFORMATION

Other Grant Project Contacts
Name: Patti Raggio, Project Role: Day-to-Day Responsibility Phone: 2097953488 Phone Ext: E-mail: pragg@parks.ca.gov

UPLOADS

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name
Completed Application Checklist
Table of Contents
Full Application Form
Authorization to Apply or Resolution
Narrative Descriptions
Detailed Budget Form
CEQA Documentation
Letters of Support
Long Term Management Plan
Project Location Map
Parcel Map Showing County Assessors Parcel Number
Topographic Map
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site

Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
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Photos of the Project Site

To preserve the integrity of the uploaded document, headers, footers and page numbers have not been added by the system.

Appendix B1

Full Application Checklist

Project Name: North Grove Restoration Project

Applicant: California Department of Parks and Recreation


Please mark each box: check if item is included in the application; mark "N/A" if not applicable to the project. "N/A" identifications must be explained in the application. Please consult with SNC staff prior to submission if you have any questions about the applicability to your project of any items on the checklist. All applications must include a CD including an electronic file of each checklist item, if applicable. The naming convention for each electronic file is listed after each item on the checklist. (Electronic File Name = EFN: "naming convention". file extension choices)

Submission requirements for all Category One and Category Two Grant Applications

1. ☒ Completed Application Checklist (EFN: *Checklist.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
2. ☒ Table of Contents (EFN: *TOC.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
3. ☒ Full Application Project Information Form (EFN: *SIform.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
4. ☒ Authorization to Apply or Resolution (EFN: *authorization.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
5. ☒ Narrative Descriptions - Submit a single document that includes each of the following narrative descriptions (EFN: *Narrative.doc, .docx, .rtf*)
 - a. ☒ Detailed Project Description (5,000 character maximum)
 - ☒ Project Description including Goals/Results, Scope of Work, Location, Purpose, etc.
 - ☒ Project Summary
 - ☒ Environmental Setting
 - b. ☒ Workplan and Schedule (1,000 character maximum)
 - c. ☒ Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements (1,000 character maximum)
 - d. ☒ Organizational Capacity (1,000 character maximum)
 - e. ☒ Cooperation and Community Support (1,000 character maximum)
 - f. ☒ Long Term Management and Sustainability (1,000 character maximum)
 - g. ☒ Performance Measures (1,000 character maximum)
6. Supplemental and Supporting documents
 - a. ☒ Detailed Budget Form (EFN: *Budget.xls, .xlsx*)
 - b. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements, as applicable
 - ~~N/A~~ Restrictions / Agreements (EFN: *RestAgree.pdf*)
 - ~~N/A~~ Regulatory Requirements / Permits (EFN: *RegPermit.pdf*)

- ☒ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation (EFN: CEQA.pdf)
- ~~N/A~~ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation (EFN: NEPA.pdf)
- c. Cooperation and Community Support
- ☒ Letters of Support (EFN: LOS.pdf)
- d. Long-Term Management and Sustainability
- ☒ Long-Term Management Plan (EFN: LTMP.pdf)
- e. Maps and Photos
- ☒ Project Location Map (EFN: LocMap.pdf)
- ☒ Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (EFN: ParcelMap.pdf)
- ☒ Topographic Map (EFN: Topo.pdf)
- ☒ Photos of the Project Site (10 maximum) (EFN: Photo.jpg, .gif)
- f. Additional submission requirements for Conservation Easement Acquisition applications only
- ~~N/A~~ Acquisition Schedule (EFN: acqSched.doc, .docx, .rtf, .pdf)
- ~~N/A~~ Willing Seller Letter (EFN: WillSell.pdf)
- ~~N/A~~ Real Estate Appraisal (EFN: Appraisal.pdf)
- ~~N/A~~ Conservation Easement Language (EFN: CE.pdf)
- g. Additional submission requirements for Site Improvement / Restoration Project applications only
- ~~N/A~~ Land Tenure Documents – attach only if documentation was not included with Pre-application (EFN: Tenure.pdf)
- ☒ Site Plan (EFN: SitePlan.pdf)
- ~~N/A~~ Leases or Agreements (EFN: LeaseAgmnt.pdf)

I certify that the information contained in the Application, including required attachments, is accurate.


Elizabeth L. Steller
District Services Manager
Central Valley District
California Department of Parks and Recreation

1/19/12
Date

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**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PROPOSITION 84 - PROJECT INFORMATION FORM**

Rev. August 2011

PROJECT NAME North Grove Forest Restoration Project

APPLICANT NAME

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Central Valley District
22708 Broadway Street
Columbia, California
95310-9400

PERSON WITH FISCAL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT/INVOICING

Name and title – type or print

Phone

Email Address

☐ Mr.

☒ Ms. Patricia A. Raggio, Environmental Scientist 209-795-3488 pragg@parks.ca.gov

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR PLANNING DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION (*At least one entry is required*)

Name: Rebecca Willis, Calaveras County Planning Director

Phone Number: 209-754-6394

Email address: rlwillis@co.calaveras.ca.us

NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY (OR AGENCIES) CONTACT INFORMATION (*At least one entry is required*)

Name: Calaveras County Water District (CCWD)
423 East St. Charles Street
San Andreas, California
95249

Phone Number: 209-754-3543

Email address: joonel@ccwd.org

Name: Northern California Power Agency
651 Commerce Drive
Roseville, California
95678-6411

Phone Number: 916-781-3636

Email address: Randy.Bowersox@NCPAGEN.com

Please identify the appropriate project category below and provide the associated details (*Choose One*)

☒ Category One Site Improvement

☐ Category Two Pre-Project Activities

☐ Category One Conservation Easement Acquisition

<input type="checkbox"/> Site Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition Project area: <u>125 Acres</u> Total Acres: <u>125 Acres</u> SNC Portion (if different): _____ Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank): <u>2.4 miles</u> SNC Portion (if different): <u>0.69 miles</u> For Conservation Easement Acquisitions Only <input type="checkbox"/> Appraisal Included <input type="checkbox"/> Will submit appraisal by _____	Select <u>one</u> primary Site Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition deliverable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration <input type="checkbox"/> Enhancement <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Development / Improvement <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Easement
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Project Activities	Select <u>one</u> primary Pre-Project deliverable <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Condition Assessment </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> CEQA/NEPA Compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Survey </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Appraisal <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Site Assessment </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Plan </div>



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Central Valley District
22708 Broadway Street
Columbia, CA 95310-9400
(209) 536-5930

Ruth Coleman, Director

January 5, 2012

Jim Branham
Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Dr., Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mr. Branham:

**RE: SNC HEALTHY FORESTS GRANT PROGRAM – AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY
CALAVERAS BIG TREES STATE PARK**

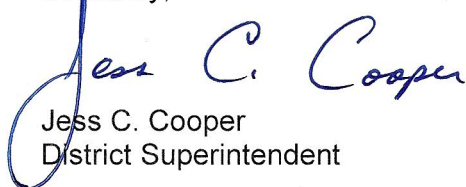
As required by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Healthy Forest Grant Program for fiscal year 2011/2012, this letter is written to authorize the natural resources staff of the Central Valley District of the Department of Parks and Recreation to apply for two SNC Healthy Forest grants. Specifically, staff is authorized to apply for the NORTH GROVE FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT and the CALAVERAS BIG TREES STATE PARK UNIT WIDE FUELS TREATMENTS & PRESCRIBED FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Both projects would greatly assist the Department in its stewardship of the giant sequoia groves that includes the "Discovery Tree", also known as the "Big Stump", the first Sierra redwood noted by Augustus T. Dowd in 1852. This area has been a major tourist attraction ever since, and is considered the longest continuously operated tourist facility in California.

The Department certifies that it has sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resource(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application and will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process.

If one or both projects are selected for grant award, I hereby appoint Elizabeth L. Steller, District Services Manager, as my agent and representative to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

Sincerely,


Jess C. Cooper
District Superintendent

5. Narrative Descriptions

a. Detailed Project Description

The purpose and objective of the 125 acre North Grove Forest Restoration Project (NGP) at Calaveras Big Trees State Park (CBT) is to restore the North Grove giant sequoia forest into a crown fire resistant forest with an open stand structure. By selectively thinning the understory and removing surface and ladder fuels, this restoration project will reduce the high fuel loads in the North Grove that may lead to stand-replacing post-wildfire effects such as sediment delivery into the Big Tree Creek (BTC) watershed (Agee, J.K. 2003. The fallacy of passive management. Conservation Management 127:55-66). Big Tree Creek flows into White Pines Lake, a public water source. This project will additionally enhance native wildlife, fish and plant habitat and improve visitor enjoyment. For more than 155 years the North Grove area at CBT has been used primarily for diverse recreational purposes.

The NGP is a part of the larger goal of the Central Valley District's Natural Resource Program's active management of forest fuels to restore Calaveras Big Trees State Park's Sierra Nevada mixed conifer forest and multiple watersheds into historic-level functioning ecosystems resilient to catastrophic wildfires, disease and other natural or human-induced disturbances.

The following treatments and goals for the NGP will be applied:

1. Conduct pre-project surveys for California spotted owls and northern goshawks unless operations begin outside of the critical period for nesting raptors. Sensitive plant surveys have been completed for the NGP area. A population of *Lomatium stebbinsii* (California Native Plant Society rare plant rank 1B.1 and State rank S2) occurs on the volcanic slope above the North Grove and will not be impacted by the NGP.
2. In general, thinning from below to reduce ladder and canopy fuels, and to reduce overall stand density. Reduce basal area from >270 to <150. Reduce stems per acre from up to 400 per acre to 50 – 70 stems per acre (including pacific dogwoods).
3. Retain all giant sequoia, black oak, pacific yew and sugar pines. Retain quality downed logs and snags for wildlife habitat.
4. Retain all live trees > 8" diameter at breast height. Larger snags and trees may be removed if selected as hazardous to project work or future prescribed burning operations.
5. Remove or pile to burn, 60%-90% of total surface fuel load. Reduce surface woody debris from 35-80 tons/acre to less than 10 tons/acre (Brown, J.K. 1974. Handbook for inventorying downed woody material. U.S. Forest Service, General Technical Report

INT-16. 24p.) Clear all heavy fuels away from the trunks of giant sequoia, pacific yews and large diameter pines to reduce possibility of bark scorch or heat mortality.

6. Burn piles in the appropriate season and weather conditions with burn permits and smoke management permit from Cal Fire and Calaveras Air Pollution Control District.

All work will be accomplished by hand crews using chainsaws, loppers and other hand tools from both the California Conservation Corp (CCC) and inmates from the California Department of Corrections (CDC) Vallecito Conservation Camp. A State Park Environmental Scientist will be on site during all work hours for project coordination, daily oversight and public education.

Project Summary:

The goal of this project is to restore the North Grove forest and prepare the North Grove basin of mixed conifer-giant sequoia forest for the re-introduction of a frequent, low intensity fire regime by thinning and removal of surface and ladder fuels (Swetnam, T. W. 1993. Fire history and climate change in giant sequoia groves. Science 262:885-889). Over 150 years of fire suppression has converted the North Grove from an open forest with light surface fuel loads to one of overcrowded thickets which puts the North Grove and CBT at a high risk for stand replacing wildfires which affect soil, hydrology, wildlife, and vegetation communities with multiple negative effects (Bisson et al. 2003. Fire and aquatic ecosystems: current knowledge and key questions. Forest Ecology and Management 178:213-229.).

Environmental Setting Narrative:

Calaveras Big Trees State Park is an approximately 7,000 acre State Park unit located on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. It includes two stands of giant sequoia, the North Grove, the South Grove Natural Preserve. The park is bordered by Sierra Pacific Industries, the United States Forest Service, and residential subdivisions. Sierra Pacific Industries is a private timber company that actively logs portions of its land near and adjacent to the park boundary.

b. Workplan and Schedule

The NGP will begin in August 2012 through September 2012 with outreach to staff, volunteers, local community and public through flyers, press releases, signage, and speaking arrangements, training of the CCC and CDC crews and staff, and the flagging of resources to protect and the marking of trees and shrubs for removal. Photo points will be selected and photos taken from each point. Plots for a line-plot inventory will be selected, marked and data recorded at each plot on fuel loads and vegetation. Surveys for raptors will precede all project work in field seasons. The actual removal can begin after this is accomplished and will continue until November 2012. Field work will continue May-November 2013, resuming May-November 2014 and the final field season May-November 2015. Six-month progress reports begin in

February and every six months thereafter. The final report, including the data related to the project performance measures, will be completed by February 2015.

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Make, staff, volunteer, community and media contacts and inform public about the project. Post signs and print handouts for community boards. Select photo points of forest and historic sites. Take photos of forest and historic sites from selected photo points. Train staff and volunteers on public interpretation of project and how to tally numbers of public contacts.	August 2012
Flag boundaries of project, flag trees, snags, logs and shrubs for protection and mark trees for removal. Flag cultural and historic resources to be retained and protected. Set up fixed-radius plots and take measurements on fuels, stand density and species composition.	August -September, 2012
Set up CCC crews and train crews on work specifications for project	August -September 2012
Conduct raptor surveys. Begin North Grove Forest Restoration Project field work. Have staff present for operations, interpretation and count of visitors contacted during operations.	August, 2012- November, 2012
Complete 1st six-month report	February, 2013
Conduct raptor surveys. Resume North Grove Forest Restoration Project field work. Have staff present for operations, interpretation, and count of visitors contacted during operations. Burn piles when conditions are appropriate.	May-November, 2013
Complete 2nd six-month report	August, 2013
Complete 3 rd six-month report	February, 2014
Conduct raptor surveys. Resume North Grove Forest Restoration Project field work. Have staff present for operations, interpretation, and count of visitors contacted during operations. Burn piles when conditions are appropriate.	May-November, 2014
Complete 4 th six-month report	August, 2014
Conduct raptor surveys. Resume North Grove Forest Restoration Project field work. Have staff present for operations, interpretation and count of visitors contacted during operations. Burn piles when conditions are appropriate. Re-exam fixed-radius plots and take measurements on fuels, stand density and species composition after completion of field work. Take final photos from photo points.	May – November, 2015

c. **Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents & Agreements**

Restrictions/Agreements: There are no property restrictions and/or encumbrances that would adversely impact completing this project.

Regulatory Requirements/Permits: A burn permit from the California Department of Forestry (Cal Fire) and a Smoke Management Plan and wildland vegetation management burn permit from the Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) are required for this project.

Permits with the Department of Fish and Game are not required because project will not impact any rare plants, animals or waterway. Permits with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are not required because the NGP is not funded by a federal entity and will not take place on federal public lands. Permits with the State Historic Preservation Office are not applicable because there will not significant impacts to historic or cultural resources from the NGP.

CEQA: The North Grove Forest Restoration Project area has gone through the environmental review process and a Notice of Exemption has been filed with the State Clearinghouse. The State Clearinghouse number is 2010118195.

NEPA: This project will not be funded by a federal entity and will not take place on federal public lands therefore no NEPA review is necessary.

d. **Organizational Capacity**

The North Grove Forest Restoration Project is a cooperative project between the Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Conservation Corps (CCC), Cal Fire and the California Department of Corrections (CDC). The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) have a 35-year history of fuel management and prescribed fire management at CBTSP. Patricia Raggio, Environmental Scientist at CBT, has 19 years of natural resource management experience working for State Parks and the U.S. Forest Service. The CCC crews provide a cost-effective labor crew for natural resource projects throughout California and have completed a number of trail building projects at CBTSP including the 2011 North Grove Meadow Boardwalk project. The CDC, operating in conjunction with Cal Fire, provide a trained work crew for conservation projects on public lands and have a twenty year relationship with CBT, and are the park's main workforce for fuel reduction projects and prescribed fire operations.

e. **Cooperation and Community Support**

The NGP will utilize a CCC crew, a CDC crew and CBT staff to conduct the project work. CBT has a long-standing relationship with the CCC and a 20 year working relationship with the CDC with a crew assigned to CBT year around to work on restoration projects, prescribed burns and conduct maintenance fuel reduction work for CBT. Patricia Raggio, Environmental Scientist at CBT has worked with the CDC crews for over 14 years at the park. CBT is considered one of the most important historic and ecologically unique parks in California. CBT receives a great deal of support, from the local community and from visitors around the world. That support is reflected in the letters of support offered as part of this proposal:

1. Sierra Pacific Industries
2. Calaveras Big Trees Association
3. Calaveras County Supervisor for District 3
4. Cal Fire
5. Save the Redwoods League
6. Central Sierra Audubon Society
7. Calaveras Fire Safe Council
8. California Conservation Corps

f. Long Term Management and Sustainability

Fuel and fire effects monitoring is a critical component of any forest restoration project at CBT. CBT is committed to tracking the accumulation of fuels over time and to the continued use of prescribed fire. Fire history studies at CBT and in other giant sequoia dominated stands, set the historic fire return interval range from 2 to 30 years, with a mean of 10 years (Swetnam, T.W. 1993. Fire history and climate change in giant sequoia groves. Science 262:885-889). The NGP area will be a priority for CBT resource managers, with the maintenance of the project area through low intensity controlled burning in a ten year historic pattern of burning which will assure the long-term sustainability of this restoration project. The long-term management of the NGP may be funded in-house by the DPR Category H, On-Going Maintenance Program, DPR Stewardship Program or cooperative agreements with other State agencies.

g. Performance Measures

Performance Measures for All Catagories:

1. Number and Diversity of People Reached:

Before field work begins in August of 2012, contacts will be made with the staff, volunteers, interpretive programs, the local community and media through printed handouts, posted signs at the project site, and personal communication. At all times during field work, staff will be posted at both entrances into the North Grove to educate the public.

Performance Measures Common to Site Improvement and Acquisition Projects:

1. Number of Significant Sites Protected or Preserved:

The historic 1854 Big Tree Wagon Road into the North Grove (CA-Cal-283H) will be avoided in the NGP. Forty-one logs, stumps and named living sequoias with historic status will be protected from project work as well as any subsurface cultural resources, including trash scatters. All significant resources will be protected from the effects of wild fire.

Performance Measures Common to Site Improvement:

1. Acres of Land Improved or Restored:

The NGP is on the Cal Fire “Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map as an area of “High Severity”. This high level of fire threatens not only the historic grove of giant sequoias, but a critical water source for adjacent communities to CBT. Pre-project forest measurements will be conducted for fuel loading and basal area using line-plot inventory with fixed-radius circular plots. Photo points will be used for before and after visual comparison.

Appendix B3

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

PROPOSITION 84 - DETAILED BUDGET FORM

Project Name: North Grove Forest Restoration Project

Applicant: Patricia A. Raggio, California Department of Parks & Recreation

SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
California Conservation Corp	\$0.00	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$0.00		\$240,000.00
Vallecito Conservation Camp	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00		\$14,000.00
State Park Environmental Scientist	\$11,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$12,000.00		\$59,000.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$14,000.00	\$142,000.00	\$142,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$313,000.00

SECTION TWO INDIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
Printing, public relations	\$50.00					\$50.00
Interpretive Signs	\$200.00					\$200.00
Performance Measures	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00		\$800.00
						\$0.00
INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,050.00
PROJECT TOTAL:	\$14,250.00	\$142,000.00	\$142,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$314,050.00

SECTION THREE						Total
Administrative Costs (Costs may not to exceed 15% of total Project Cost) :						
Administrative Costs	\$34,958.00					\$34,958.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:	\$34,958.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$34,958.00
SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:	\$49,208.00	\$142,000.00	\$142,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$349,008.00

SECTION FOUR						Total
OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
State Parks Parks & Rec Specialist	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		\$4,000.00
State Parks Chainsaws & Fuel	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00		\$1,200.00
State Park Volunteers	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		\$4,000.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00		\$200.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
Total Other Contributions:	\$2,350.00	\$2,350.00	\$2,350.00	\$2,350.00	\$0.00	\$9,400.00

NOTE: The categories listed on this form are examples and may or may not be an expense related to the project. Rows may be added or deleted on the form as needed. Applicants should contact the SNC if questions arise.

* Operating Costs should be allocated to the percentage that is applicable to the grant based on your cost allocation methodology and cannot exceed 15% of your total project costs.



Vegetation Removal and Prescribed Burn

SCH Number: 2010118195

Document Type: NOE - Notice of Exemption

Project Lead Agency: Parks and Recreation, Department of

Project Description

Remove vegetation and conduct prescribed burn in the areas known as Bigtree National Forest (BTNF) and North Grove sites at Calaveras Big Trees State Park to reduce the threat of wildfire and improve native forest composition and structure. BTNF: Work will manually remove woody debris on 35 acres in BTNF; place debris in 5'X5' piles and burn piles prior to conducting prescribed burn. Rake duff down to mineral soil approximately 10' around the base of old growth sugar pine trees greater than 40" diameter at breast height (DBH) to prevent high intensity heating and scorching during prescribed burn. Cut 5' W fire lines throughout the 35 acres to prepare and perform the prescribed burn. North Grove: Work will manually remove shrubs, shade-tolerant trees less than 6" DBH, and all dead and diseased vegetation, on 126 acres in North Grove. Place fuels in 5'X5' piles; and burn piles prior to conducting prescribed burn. Cut 5' W fire lines throughout the 125 acres to prepare and perform the prescribed burn.

Contact Information

Primary Contact:
Heather M Reith
California Department of Parks and Recreation
209 536 2887
Central Valley District
22708 Broadway Street
Columbia, CA 95310

Project Location

County: Calaveras, Tuolumne
City:
Region:
Cross Streets:
Latitude/Longitude:
Parcel No:
Township:
Range:
Section:
Base:
Other Location Info: Calaveras Big Trees State Park

Exempt Status

- ☐ Ministerial
☐ Declared Emergency
☐ Emergency Project
☒ Categorical Exemption
☐ Statutory Exemption

Type, Section or Code Number C: 1,4; S: 15301,15304

Reasons for Exemption

Project consists of maintenance or minor alteration of existing public facilities or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination; and minor public alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for the forestry purposes; included as "prescribed burns to maintain native vegetation" and "prescribed burns to restore native vegetation, reduce fuel loads, and control invasive exotic or alien species" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR S 15300.4.

Date Received: 11/15/2010

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State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
Central Valley District
22708 Broadway Street
Columbia, CA 95310

PROJECT TITLE: Vegetation Removal and Prescribed Burn

LOCATION: Calaveras Big Trees State Park

COUNTY: Calaveras & Tuolumne

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Remove vegetation and conduct prescribed burn in the areas known as Bigtree National Forest (BTNF) and North Grove sites at Calaveras Big Trees State Park to reduce the threat of wildfire and improve native forest composition and structure.

BTNF: Work will manually remove woody debris on 35 acres in BTNF; place debris in 5'X5' piles; and burn piles prior to conducting prescribed burn. Rake duff down to mineral soil approximately 10' around the base of old growth sugar pine trees greater than 40" diameter at breast height (DBH) to prevent high intensity heating and scorching during prescribed burn. Cut 5' W fire lines throughout the 35 acres to prepare and perform the prescribed burn.

North Grove: Work will manually remove shrubs, shade-tolerant trees less than 6" DBH, and all dead and diseased vegetation, on 125 acres in North Grove. Place fuels in 5'X5' piles; and burn piles prior to conducting prescribed burn. Cut 5' W fire lines throughout the 125 acres to prepare and perform the prescribed burn.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Central Valley District

EXEMPT STATUS:

☒ Categorical Exemption

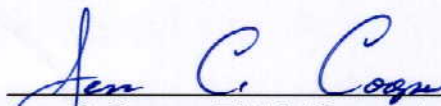
Classes: 1, 4

Sections: 15301, 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: Project consists of maintenance or minor alteration of existing public facilities or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination; and minor public alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry purposes; included as "prescribed burns to maintain native vegetation" and "prescribed burns to restore native vegetation, reduce fuel loads, and control invasive exotic or alien species" in the Department of Parks and Recreation's list of exempt activities, in accordance with CCR§ 15300.4.

CONTACT: Heather M Reith, DEC
Central Valley District

TELEPHONE: (209) 536-2887
EMAIL: hreith@parks.ca.gov



Jess C. Cooper, District Superintendent
DATE 11/15/10

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

PROJECT CONCEPT

PROJECT TITLE Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects		PARK UNIT NAME Calaveras Big Trees SP
DISTRICT NAME Central Valley		FACILITY NO. 306
PROJECT MANAGER Patty Raggio	PHONE NO. 209-795-3488	EMAIL pragg@parks.ca.gov
DISTRICT PROJECT MANAGER Jess Cooper	PHONE NO. 209-536-5931	EMAIL jcoop@parks.ca.gov
PROJECT BID DATE N/A	CONSTRUCTION START DATE 10/1/10	FUNDING SOURCE Project # 125210-00 (BTNF project only)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Bigtree National Forest Restoration: The historic 379 acre BigTree National Forest (BTNF), acquired by State Parks in 1993, is home to over 1000 old growth sugar pines (*Pinus lambertiana*) and is known as one of the highest density stands of remaining sugar pine forest on Earth. A 35 acre fuel reduction project in this stand has recently been funded and this is the first project to begin reducing the surface and ladder fuels of this unique forest stand.

On the ground work will be accomplished by Cal Fire labor crews, under the direction of State Parks staff. Work will include manual removal of heavy understory and ladder fuels, and piling these fuels to be burned when conditions are appropriate. Burn piles will not exceed 5'X5' to keep fire intensity low enough to keep soil heating at a minimum. This project also provides protective measures for each individual sugar pine over 40" diameter at breast height by requiring hand-removal of large woody debris and raking the duff down to mineral soil (but not below soil line) from around the base of any pine. The removal of these excessive fuels at the base of the sugar pines will prevent high intensity heating and scorching in the preparation of future prescribed burning.

This project is funded and is ready to begin immediately, however once we have snow, BTNF is inaccessible, and work will have to continue to the following year either in the spring 2011 or fall 2011. If the burn is conducted in the spring the natural resource staff will at that time determine and conduct the necessary sensitive wildlife and plant surveys before proceeding with the burn.

North Grove Fuels Reduction: Project includes having labor Crews manually cut and stack in piles the live and dead surface fuels consisting of shrubs, dogwoods, and small shade-tolerant trees < 6 inch diameter. All dead, diseased and approximately 90% live understory shrubs and small trees will be removed to break the vertical fuel ladder to larger trees and to the giant sequoias, creating a more defensible forest system against wildfire. Lightning strikes are not uncommon at Calaveras Big Trees State Park, and the North Grove is extremely vulnerable at this time. Some pockets of larger specimen dogwoods will be spared for visitor enjoyment. This fuel treatment would be phase one of an overall restoration project that will include prescribed fire in the future. Work tools and equipment includes chainsaws, loppers and other hand tools. Labor Crews will not be responsible for burning the piles as this will be done during the winter and spring seasons and/or conjunction with a prescribed burn plan. The project area is approximately 125 acres and is not currently funded.

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

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DOCUMENTS ATTACHED

- ☒ 7.5 minute (quad) map of project area (**Required**)
- ☒ Site Map (**Required** - Scale should show relationship to existing buildings, roads, landscape features, etc.)
- ☒ Graphics (Specify - photos, diagrams, drawings, cross-sections, etc.):
- ☐ Other (Specify):

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

IS AN APPLICATION, PERMIT, OR CONSULTATION REQUIRED?

- Coastal Development Permit
- DFG Stream Alteration Permit
- State & Federal Endangered Species Consultation
- Corps of Engineers 404 Permit
- RWQCB or NPDES Permit
- DPR Right to Enter or Temporary Use Permit
- PRC 5024 Review
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Stormwater Management Plan
- Encroachment Permit (Specify Agency):
- Other (Specify):

YES	MAYBE	NO	CONTACT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTS:

DEPARTMENT POLICY COMPLIANCE

HAS A GENERAL PLAN BEEN APPROVED FOR THE UNIT?

If YES, is the project consistent with the GP?

If NO, what is the project justification?

- Is it a temporary facility? (No permanent resource commitment)
- Health and Safety?
- Is it a Resource Management Project?
- Is it repairing, replacing, or rehabilitating an existing facility?

YES	NO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IS THE PROJECT WITHIN A CLASSIFIED SUBUNIT?

- Natural Preserve
- Cultural Preserve
- State Wilderness

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IS THE PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVES?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------------------------------------	--------------------------

IS THE PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S OPERATIONS MANUAL CHAPTER 0300?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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COMMENTS:

SUPERINTENDENT PROJECT CONCEPT APPROVAL OR DESIGNEE

TITLE

SPS III

DATE

10/7/10

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

PCA No. _____

RESOURCES*Explain all 'Yes' or 'Maybe' answers in the "Evaluation and Comments" section (reference by letter and number). Attach additional pages, if necessary.*

YES MAYBE NO

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

A. EARTH – WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Create unstable soil or geologic conditions?
2. Adversely affect topographic features?
3. Adversely affect any unusual or significant geologic features?
4. Increase wind or water erosion?
5. Adversely affect sand deposition or erosion of a sand beach?
6. Expose people, property, or facilities to geologic hazards or hazardous waste?
7. Adversely affect any paleontological resource?

YES MAYBE NO

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

B. AIR – WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Adversely affect general air quality or climatic patterns?
2. Introduce airborne pollutants that may affect plant or animal vigor or viability?
3. Increase levels of dust or smoke?
4. Adversely affect visibility?

YES MAYBE NO

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

C. WATER – WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Change or adversely affect movement in marine or fresh waters?
2. Change or adversely affect drainage patterns or sediment transportation rates?
3. Adversely affect the quantity or quality of groundwater?
4. Adversely affect the quantity or quality of surface waters?
5. Expose people or property to flood waters?
6. Adversely affect existing or potential aquatic habitat(s)?

YES MAYBE NO

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

D. PLANT LIFE – WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Adversely affect any native plant community?
2. Adversely affect any unique, rare, endangered, or protected plant species?
3. Introduce a new species of plant to the area?
4. Adversely affect agricultural production?
5. Adversely affect the vigor or structure of any tree?
6. Encourage the growth or spread of alien (non-native) species?
7. Interfere with established fire management plans or practices?

YES MAYBE NO

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

E. ANIMAL LIFE – WILL THE PROJECT:

1. Adversely affect any native or naturalized animal population?
2. Adversely affect any unusual, rare, endangered, or protected species?
3. Adversely affect any animal habitat?
4. Introduce or encourage the proliferation of any non-native species?

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	MAYBE <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	F. CULTURAL RESOURCES – WILL THE PROJECT: 1. Adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archeological site? 2. Adversely affect a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object? 3. Cause an adverse physical or aesthetic effect on an eligible or contributing building, structure, object, or cultural landscape? 4. Diminish the informational or research potential of a cultural resource? 5. Increase the potential for vandalism or looting? 6. Disturb any human remains? 7. Restrict access to a sacred site or inhibit the traditional religious practice of a Native American community?
<i>F2 + 5 See 5024 — LDB</i>			
YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	MAYBE <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	G. AESTHETIC RESOURCES – WILL THE PROJECT: 1. Adversely affect a scenic vista or view? 2. Significantly increase noise levels? 3. Adversely affect the quality of the scenic resources in the immediate area or park-wide? 4. Create a visually offensive site? 5. Be incompatible with the park design established for this unit or diminish the intended sense of "a special park quality" for the visitor?
YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	MAYBE <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	H. RECREATIONAL RESOURCES – WILL THE PROJECT: 1. Be in a public use area? 2. Have an adverse effect on the quality of the intended visitor experience? 3. Have an adverse effect on the quality or quantity of existing or future recreational opportunities or facilities? 4. Have an adverse effect on the accessibility of recreational facilities (e.g., ADA requirements)?
EVALUATION AND COMMENTS			
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW <i>To Be Completed by Qualified Specialist(s) ONLY.</i> <i>Attach additional reviews or continuation pages, as necessary.</i>			
ARCHEOLOGIST COMMENTS <div style="float: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> No Significant Impact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conditions, Mitigation <input type="checkbox"/> Potential Impact </div> <div style="clear: both;"></div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; margin-top: 10px;"> <i>See 5024, attached.</i> </div>			
SIGNATURE <i>Linda Dick Bissonnette</i>		PRINTED NAME Linda Dick Bissonnette	
TITLE Associate State Archaeologist		DATE 10/27/10	
HISTORIAN COMMENTS <div style="float: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> No Significant Impact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conditions, Mitigation <input type="checkbox"/> Potential Impact </div> <div style="clear: both;"></div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> While the proposed project will occur within Calaveras Big Trees, based on the maps provided, it will not occur within the historic CCC campground area. If any historic features are uncovered during brush removal, they must be protected prior to any burn activity. </div>			
SIGNATURE		PRINTED NAME Dan Osanna	

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

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PCA No. _____

RESOURCE ECOLOGIST COMMENTS

☒ No Significant Impact ☐ Conditions, Mitigation ☐ Potential Impact

SIGNATURE

PRINTED NAME

TITLE

Patricia A. Raggio

Environmental Scientist

DATE

9/20/10

MAINTENANCE CHIEF/SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

☒ No Significant Impact ☐ Conditions, Mitigation ☐ Potential Impact

In 1975 the prescribed burn program was established at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. This project will improve the health of the forest community in Big Trees National Forest and to the North Grove.

SIGNATURE

PRINTED NAME

TITLE

Gary Nelson

District Maintenance Chief III

DATE

9/29/2010

OTHER SPECIALIST COMMENTS

☐ No Significant Impact ☐ Conditions, Mitigation ☐ Potential Impact

SIGNATURE

PRINTED NAME

TITLE

DATE

Sector Superintendent Comment Review

☐ No Significant Impact ☐ Conditions, Mitigation ☐ Potential Impact

SIGNATURE

PRINTED NAME

TITLE

Vince Sereno

Calaveras Sector Superintendent III

DATE

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REVIEW

YES MAYBE NO

☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ ☐

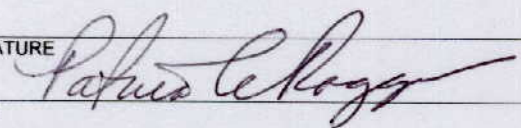
CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

1. Will the project be conducted in conjunction with or at the same time as other projects at the park?
2. Will the project be part of a series of inter-related projects?
3. Are there any other projects that must be completed for any part of this project to become operational?
4. Are there any other projects (including deferred maintenance) that have been completed or any probable future projects that could contribute to the cumulative impacts of this project?
5. Are any of the projects that relate to the proposed work outside the General Plan?

COMMENTS:

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

730-306-
Project ID No. 9/27/2010
PCA No. _____

RESOURCE ECOLOGIST COMMENTS		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Significant Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions, Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Potential Impact
SIGNATURE 		PRINTED NAME Patricia A. Raggio		
TITLE Environmental Scientist		DATE 9/20/10		
MAINTENANCE CHIEF/SUPERVISOR COMMENTS		<input type="checkbox"/> No Significant Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions, Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Potential Impact
SIGNATURE		PRINTED NAME Gary Nelson		
TITLE District Maintenance Chief III		DATE		
OTHER SPECIALIST COMMENTS		<input type="checkbox"/> No Significant Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions, Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Potential Impact
SIGNATURE		PRINTED NAME		
TITLE		DATE		
Sector Superintendent Comment Review		<input type="checkbox"/> No Significant Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions, Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Potential Impact
SIGNATURE		PRINTED NAME Vince Sereno		
TITLE Calaveras Sector Superintendent III		DATE		

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REVIEW

YES	MAYBE	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

1. Will the project be conducted in conjunction with or at the same time as other projects at the park?
2. Will the project be part of a series of inter-related projects?
3. Are there any other projects that must be completed for any part of this project to become operational?
4. Are there any other projects (including deferred maintenance) that have been completed or any probable future projects that could contribute to the cumulative impacts of this project?
5. Are any of the projects that relate to the proposed work outside the General Plan?

COMMENTS: There may possibly ^{be} projects taking place at EBT while these are in process but they will not contribute to cumulative impacts. They will contribute to the overall health of the forest. The BTDF site may extend to the northern reaches of that area but that has not been determined at this time.

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PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

RECOMMENDATION:

- ☐ Not a project for the purposes of CEQA compliance.
☒ The project is exempt. A Notice of Exemption should be filed.
☐ A Negative Declaration should be prepared.
☐ A Mitigated Negative Declaration should be prepared.
☐ An EIR should be prepared.

SIGNATURE

Heather M. Reith

PRINTED NAME

Heather M. Reith

TITLE

District Environmental Coordinator

DATE

10/27/10

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT REVIEW

COMMENTS:

I acknowledge any constraints placed on the project as a result of the specialists' comments above and recommend the project proceed.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

[Signature]

SPS-V

10/27/10

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Historical Review ☐ **Archaeological Review** ☒ **Both** ☐
Project Evaluation
(P.R.C. 5024, 5024.5 and E.O. W-26-92)

PROJECT: Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects, Calaveras Big Trees State Park**PARK UNIT:** Calaveras Big Trees State Park**DISTRICT:** Central Valley District**Project Manager:** Patricia Raggio**Date:** 10/21/10**Contact Phone #:** (209) 795-3488**FAX #:****Email:** praggio@parks.ca.gov

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / DEFINE A.P.E. BOUNDARY: Forest thinning and burn pile formation are part of on-going forest management at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. The project is to light the burn piles and conduct a series of small prescribed fires in the North Grove and Big Trees National Forest when conditions and air quality standards permit them. See attached PEF for a more complete project description.

Source of Funding/Amount:**CULTURAL RESOURCES:**

HISTORIC ☐ **ARCHAEOLOGICAL** ☐ **TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY (TCP)** ☐ **NONE** ☐

POTENTIALLY PRESENT (i.e. potentially buried resources or survey inconclusive due to inaccessibility) ☐

APE visited by Cultural Resources Staff Yes ☒ No ☐

Name: Linda Dick Bissonnette, ASA**Date:** 10/7/10, 10/20/10**Methods of Inventory:**

Records Review ☒ **Site History Research** ☒ **Field Survey** ☐ **Subsurface Testing** ☒ **Other cursory survey**

Explain Findings: I. The North Grove at Calaveras Big Trees State Park was mapped in 1924 and 1936 and surveyed for cultural resources in 1981 and 1985 by State Archaeologist John Kelly and State Historian John McAleer (CBT Inventory of Features, Cultural Resources 1986:59). A series of projects in recent years have thinned encroaching white fire and incense cedar trees, made the historic loop trail in the grove wheelchair accessible, added a 3-senses trail at the west end of the grove, obscured sections of the historic road through the grove, added memorial benches, removed or modified protective split-rail fencing, and changed the direction and numbers of interpreted elements along the trail. Surviving marble name plaques have been removed and cataloged as part of the park's museum objects collection (currently housed in Columbia SHP), to be transferred back to CBT upon completion of a new Visitors Center. In 2007, over 42 named trees and logs in the North Grove were added to the cultural resources Index in more formal recognition of their cultural-historical value, including the stump of the Discovery Tree which was singled out for protection in 1990 (CBT GP) and recommended as eligible for the National and California Registers in 2002 (DPR 523).

As the project description states, additional thinning will be performed by hand, with young trees (mostly dogwood) cut and stacked outside of the grove proper, to keep new ground disturbance to a minimum. Any burning within the grove would be conducted under the most strict perceptions, to avoid damage to the Sierra sequoias, old growth sugar pines, and other scenic and culturally significant trees, plants, and wildlife.

II. The 396-acre Calaveras Bigtree National Forest (hereafter BTNF) is located in portions of Sections 28, 29, 30 and 31 in T5N, 16E, MDBM) ranging 4880-5220 feet in elevation. It has not been surveyed for cultural resources, as far as available records indicate (CVD files; Balen, personal communication, Stanislaus National Forest district archaeologist). It was protected from logging in 1909 by Congressional action; became the smallest forest in the national forest system; was proposed for transfer to the State of California in 1990; and was acquired by State Parks in 1993. Beaver Creek, a tributary to the North Fork of the Stanislaus River, runs diagonally through Section 30 from the NE to SW with five indigenous camp and food processing sites on both banks, the largest of which is at the confluence with Big Trees Creek over 1 mile west of the project area. Beaver Creek is 400+ feet NW of BTNF. A Pickering Lumber Company logging railroad spur forms the NW boundary of the southern part of BTNF, and the North Rim Road (a modified version of a 1930s fuel break) skirts the southern boundary. The area may be described as steep to moderately steep, with north-facing slopes and a few small knolls with small granite outcrops. A white quartz vein is exposed in Section 31 and may be the source of some rough hewn lithics elsewhere in the park but no quarry site has yet been located. There are huge old growth sugar pines, ponderosa pines, incense cedars, and white firs throughout BTNF, with a few 12-18" diameter black oaks here and there. The duff in the SW section is surprisingly thin (2-3 inches) and the slash less dense than in the less recently acquired portions of Calaveras Big Trees State Park. This suggests that local conditions have kept the undergrowth in check except where lightning strikes and 'blow downs' have created an opening in the canopy and a thicket of young firs, pines, or dogwoods have sprouted to a height of about 10 feet. There is little or no scorching of tree trunks to suggest that prescribed or controlled burning has occurred. The forest floor vegetation includes wild ginger, roses, iris, pine drops, and other small, flowering plants with very little if any kit-kit-dizze, manzanita, ceanothus or buck brush typical of logged or otherwise disturbed areas in the Sierra. Neither are there any berries to speak

Log No.: 730-306-9/27/2010

of. Only one bear sign and one deer sign were seen on two separate visits, although a few large openings on the trunks of standing dead trees suggest that large birds (pileated woodpeckers?) feed on insects here and several ravens were seen and heard near the NE end adjacent to a private logging company's clear cuts. So, although this sugar pine stand has been written about and explored since 1850 or earlier, it is in more pristine condition than many other areas and therefore potentially eligible as both a natural and cultural preserve as one of the few remaining examples of a pre-EuroAmerican forest landscape (go to <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amrvhtml/conshome.html> for a chronology of the U. S. Conservation Movement that mentions Bigtree National Forest).

Meandering transects through the SW 35-acre first phase burn area did not reveal any indigenous cultural resources eligible for the National or California Registers. There are scattered black oaks, small and irregular granite outcrops, and a white quartz vein, but known sites are closer to creeks and springs and on less steep and more south-facing slopes. Prescriptions to avoid or substantially lessen thermal damage to tree roots, that is to rake woody material 2m away from large sugar pines and black oaks, and to time burns just after and before a rain to limit their intensity and duration, will also avoid thermal damage to cultural resources. There are no known historic buildings in the APE, but if any are discovered, the district archaeologist and a historian will be notified and the area will be excluded from the burn area (with flagging and a raked fire line). Post-burn surveys will be conducted as staffing or funds permit. The Project Manager and crew are aware of potential cultural resources and will report any encountered, to be mapped, recorded, added to the park and state inventory, and protected. An isolated find of two pieces of logging equipment, a gear wheel and a hub (either from a Steam Donkey or hand crank log hoist) were photographed NW of the intersection 5N07 and 5N36 near Landing 68A, to be recorded as part of a logging site, over 500 feet from the planned burn area.

Members of the Washoe Tribe will visit the park on October 28th, be informed of the planned burns and given an opportunity to comment. The Calaveras Band of Me-Wuk Indians have previously visited the park and consulted on a number of issues, including appropriate signage and participation in interpretive programs. The few number and small size of known sites at CBT, and ethnographies, suggest that it was only used seasonally, as does the fact that it is blanketed with snow 6-7 months a year (Engbeck 1988; Kroeber 1919 (1976 edition); Levy 1978:400).

NEGATIVE SURVEY DETERMINATION:

☐ **NO EFFECT: No Historical Resources Present**

[If no cultural resources are present, or potentially present within the project APE, no further documentation is required. Proceed to review section VII. APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION for signature]

I. EXISTING CONDITIONS/RESOURCE STATUS Attach appropriate documentation (DPR 523 forms, etc.):

A. Resources within APE: [Site Number(s)/Description(s)/Date of Latest Recordation Form(s)/Additional Documentation (reports, studies, etc)]: see below

B. Newly identified resources recorded or updated previous records?: Yes ☐ No ☒

Explain/List: named, living Sierra sequoias, logs and stumps in the North Grove at Calaveras Big Trees State Park:

Big Stump and Chip of the Old Block (Discovery Tree)

Ten Pin Alley & Bar Room tree (modified log)

The Sentinels (1 fallen and 1 standing)

Desiree Fricot Grove

Pride of the Forest (formerly Eagle)

Phil Sheridan

Three Graces (Carrie, Em, & Belle)

Marian Calaveras Whiteside

William Cullen Bryant

Pioneer Cabin Tree

California

Abraham Lincoln

Mother of the Forest

General Sutter

Father of the Forest

LaFayette

Hercules

Mother & Son

Old Bachelor

Siamese Twins

Granite State

Log No.: 730-306-9/27/2010

Vermont
Empire State
Old Dowd
Frances Willard
Lady Isabel Somerset
Beauty of the Forest
Rhode Island
Dead-Devil's Toothpick
U. S. Grant
T. P. McPherson
Wm. T. Sherman
Gen. Phil Kearny
Co. C. Vanderbilt
Swing
Col. Robert Logbry (sp)

II. ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION(S) (use continuation page [separate file] for additional resources identified):

A. Resource Evaluation and Significance (If resource is nominated or listed, do NOT fill out section IIB below. Attach appropriate recordation forms to review package. If not, move to section IIB below).

Resource Name / Site Number: CA-Cal-283H one-half mile segment of the historic Emigrant Road spur into the North Grove (1854), "Big Tree [wagon] Road" 1857; used in modern times as a fire road, with limited vehicle access.

Resource Type is: Individual Building/Structure ☐ Archaeological Site(s) ☐ Historic Site(s) ☐ Landscape District ☐
Historic District ☐ Archaeological District ☐ TCP ☐ National Historic Landmark ☐ Cultural Preserve ☐
Historic Object ☐ Other (e.g., Isolate, California Landmark, Point of Historic Interest, etc.):

Nominated for ☐ **or Listed** ☐ **on:** **California Register:** Yes ☐ No ☒ **National Register:** Yes ☐ No ☒
(If Nominated: Eligibility Concurrence status by OHP: Yes ☐ No ☐ In process

B. Site/Structure Eligibility Determination (for newly recorded, non-nominated or listed resources):

Not Eligible ☐

Explain (include documentation of negative DOE):

Potentially Eligible ☐

Criteria: A – Events ☐ B – People ☐ C—Design ☐ D—Information ☒

Significance Statement: The remaining historic road segment alignment has not changed since the late 19th C.

Integrity Discussion: Scattered fragments of glass, ceramics and miscellaneous debris were reported along the historic road edges in 1985 (Kelly and McAller) but are not evident today due to road maintenance grading and a build up of forest duff. Potential subsurface cultural resources, including trash scatters from the 1850s through 1930s could have intrinsic value and information potential.

III. DPR POLICY COMPLIANCE

- A. Is project consistent with General Plan?:** Yes ☐ No ☐ **GP date:** 1986; approved in 1990
B. If no General Plan, is project scope consistent with current resource use?: Yes ☐ No ☐
C. Is project consistent with Cultural Resource Management Directives?: Yes ☒ No ☐

Comments: see above

IV. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A. Historic Resources

Historic Facility Name(s):

Will the proposed project impact historic resources? Yes ☐ No ☐

Describe impacts or non-impacts and provide Comments:

Is proposed project consistent with Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines?: Yes ☐ No ☐

Explain:

Log No.: 730-306-9/27/2010

B. Archaeological Resources

Site Number(s): see above

Archaeological Site Type: Historic ☒ Prehistoric ☒ Unknown ☒

Will the proposed project impact archaeological resources? Yes ☐ No ☒

Describe impacts or non-impacts and provide comments: If burn piles are located 2m or more away from the historic road and North Grove trail, then potential impacts to buried cultural resources may be avoided or substantially lessened to a less than significant level. Similarly, burn piles should not be located on the historic logging railroad grade or Rim Road (historic fire break) in the Big Trees National Forest project area.

Is proposed project consistent with Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines in relation to archaeological resources?:

Yes ☒ No ☐

Explain:

V. TREATMENTS AND MITIGATION

A. Would project redesign lessen resource impacts?: Yes ☒ No ☐

Explain: See above

B. Are appropriate treatment measures included within project scope?: Yes ☒ No ☐

Explain:

C. Does treatment involve salvaging historic fabric or excavating archaeological deposits?: Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, has a recordation program or archaeological treatment plan been approved by a senior-level CRS? Yes ☐ No ☐

Explain:

D. In order to bring the project into compliance with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards, the project should proceed with the following modifications or special provisions (Identify specific treatment measures):

VI. DETERMINATION

A. Is documentation sufficient for Determination of Effect?: Yes ☒ No ☐

If No, check below:

☐ NO DETERMINATION OF EFFECT CURRENTLY POSSIBLE

Explain:

If Yes: the reviewer has sufficient documentation to determine that the Proposed Project will have:

☐ No Effect: No Historical Resources Present (See Section)

☐ No Effect: No Historical Resources Affected

☒ No Adverse Effect

☐ Adverse Effect

on the Historical or Archaeological Resources of the State Park System.

Explain:

Has a Secondary Review of this DOE been completed by a Cultural Resource Specialist?: Yes ☐ No ☐

VII. APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION

(APPROVAL OF THIS PROJECT IS CONTINGENT ON PROJECT SCOPE NOT BEING CHANGED FROM ABOVE DESCRIPTION. IF SCOPE IS CHANGED, PROJECT MANAGER MUST CONTACT CULTURAL RESOURCE REVIEWER(S) FOR POTENTIAL REVIEW.)

Primary Reviews:

Historical Review

I recommend this project be Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Approved Conditionally ☐

Explain:

Historical Reviewer:

Date:

Title:

Phone #:

Hours Spent on Evaluation:

Archaeological Review

I recommend this project be Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Approved Conditionally ☒

Explain: Despite some unknowns, the need to lessen the potential for catastrophic wildfire and reduce potential loss of the historic named Sierra sequoias and old growth Sugar Pines outweighs the usual standards to inventory and assess potential cultural resources first. Please notify the district archaeologist of burn days and their completion so that a post-burn inspection can be scheduled before the area is closed for the Winter or reopened to visitors in the Spring. Please notify park rangers to close any area that is exposed to mineral soil if vandalism or looting could occur. As noted above, please move burn piles off of road and railroad beds.

Archaeological Reviewer: Linda Dick Bissonnette

Date: 10/21/10

Title: Associate State Archaeologist, Central Valley District

Phone #: (209) 536-5939

Hours Spent on Evaluation: 14

Restoration Architect Review

I recommend this project be Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Approved Conditionally ☐

Explain:

Architectural Reviewer:

Date:

Title:

Phone #:

Hours Spent on Evaluation:

Secondary Review:

I recommend this project be Approved ☐ Not Approved ☐ Approved Conditionally ☐

Explain:

Secondary Reviewer:

Title:

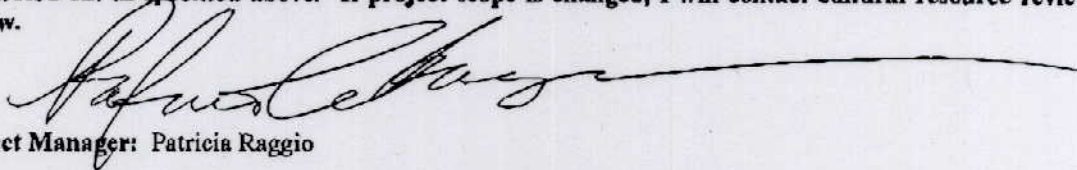
Phone #:

Comments:

Log No.: 730-306-9/27/2010

Project Manager:

I understand that this project as proposed or modified may affect historical or archaeological resources. I will insure that all treatment measures necessary for the project to confirm with Historic Preservation standards and professional guidelines will be carried out as specified above. If project scope is changed, I will contact cultural resource reviewer(s) for potential re-review.

**Project Manager:** Patricia Raggio**Title:** Environmental Scientist**Phone #:** (209) 794-3488**Date:** 10/27/10**FAX #:**

Note: All review packages must include a project map and appropriate documentation. For archaeological surveys, attach DPR 649 (or equivalent) with coverage map and site records. For historic structures, attach DPR 523 or 750. For archaeological sites, attach DPR 523.

Reith, Heather

From: Raggio, Patricia
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2010 9:07 AM
To: Dick-Bissonnette, Linda
Cc: Reith, Heather; Autry, Cristina

Comments on 5024 Archaeological Review for Forest and Fuels Reduction Projects at CBSTP.

Note my email address is pragg@parks.ca.gov not praggio.

Hi Linda, Here are my comments on the following 5024.

North Grove Project:

1. As far as thinning projects in the North Grove, we have not had a true fuel reduction project in the North Grove in the 14 years I have worked in the park. Trees and shrubs that were cut for making the new trails were not "thinning" projects, but may have created this confusion in that the work did create some gaps of thinning where burn piles were or new trail had to be cut.

2. It is not physically nor financially feasible to stack the burn piles outside of the "grove proper". Stacking piles occur where fuels are cut and openings in the canopy allow for proper safe ignition. I can however, keep the piles to a size that will "keep ground disturbance to a minimum."

BigTree NF Project

1. The duff layers throughout BTNF, as in much of the Sierra Nevada mixed coniferous forest, varies from less than 1 inch to 3 feet or more deep. The duff layers tend to be thinner on the ridgetops while deeper on benches and against the uphill sides of tree boles.

2. The slash also varies in depth and arrangement and the statement comparing it to the "less recently acquired adjacent portions of CBTSP" is unclear. The slash throughout the BTNF runs from about 8 t/acre to over 46.6 t/acre.

3. Any scorching on tree trunks are naturally caused by lightning strikes. State Parks has never done any prescribed burning in the BTNF (neither has USFS). Fire history information gathered by dendrochronological methods do not show any natural stand level fires since the 1860's. Small lightning strike fires may have consumed some fuels, otherwise the areas with low fuel loading are simply because this is an old-growth forest and in this climax state, it does not produce the level of surface debris as a younger forest. The 80-100 % canopy cover makes it difficult for the complex understory that we see in second growth and younger forests to thrive, thus less small tree mortality. This type of forest naturally has a greater number of larger diameter surface logs than the fuels we see on younger forest floors. There are pockets however, where the dogwoods and fuels have built up, especially against old growth pines, that require manual removal to prep for returning a natural fire regime to this stand. That is the purpose of this project.

Also, as a professional courtesy, I would appreciate, as any project manager would, being notified ahead of time when you or anyone would like to make a project site visit. I would have liked to have made the date when I was available to join you and been able to directly address any questions, concerns and facts needed. Tina and I enjoyed our hike with you and the sharing of knowledge and information and thank you for the articles, very interesting! Thank you, Patty

Patricia A. Raggio
Environmental Scientist
Calaveras Big Trees State Park
P.O. Box 120
Arnold, California 95246
209-795-3488
pragg@parks.ca.gov

Calaveras Big Trees State Park

North Grove Fuels Reduction Project

Bigtree National Forest Restoration Project



1:37,521



**Calaveras Bigtree National Forest Fuels Reduction and
Prescribed Burning Project**



Example of large diameter sugar pine in
BTNF



Example understory fuels in the BTNF

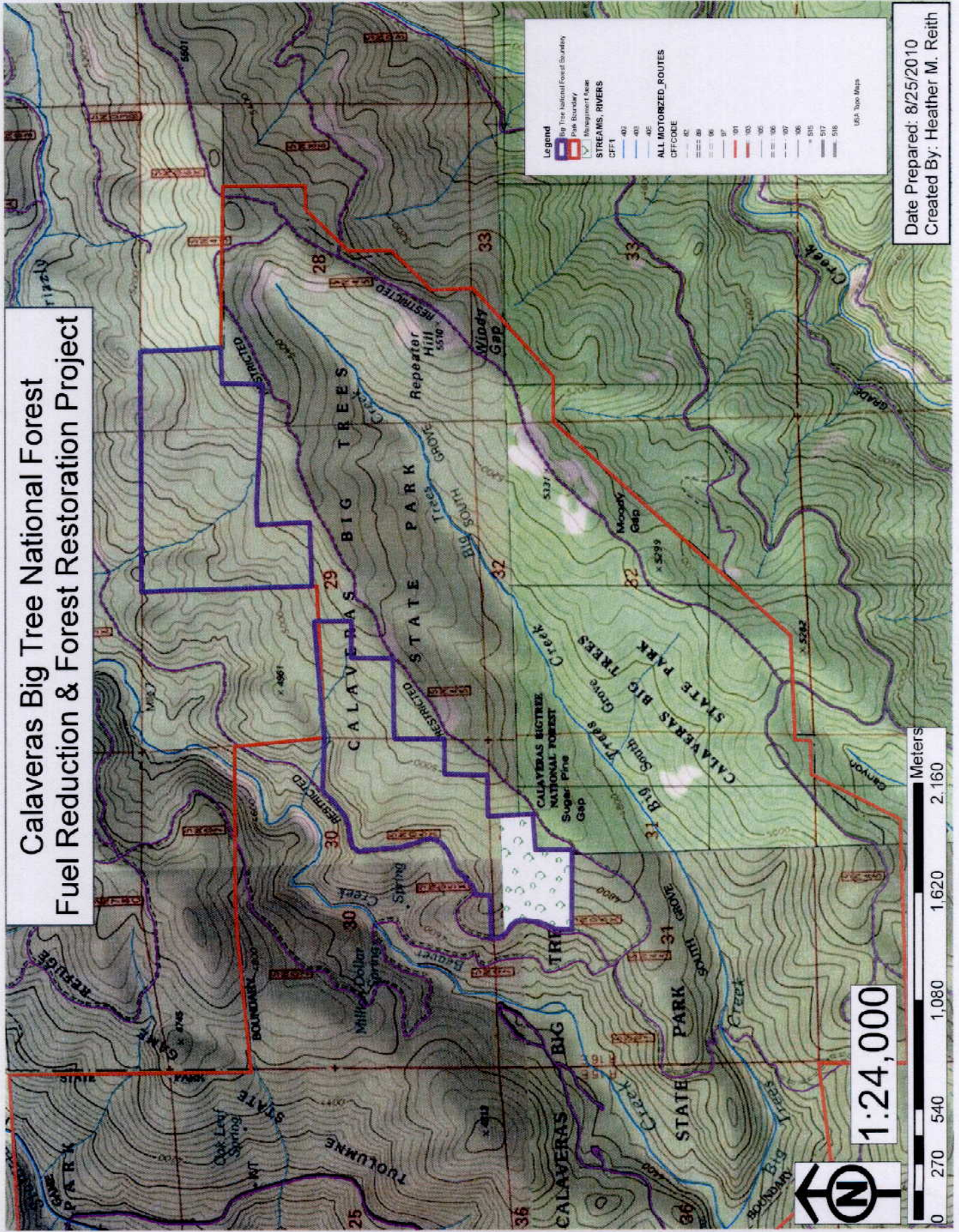


Example of necessity to treat ground fuels in BTNF



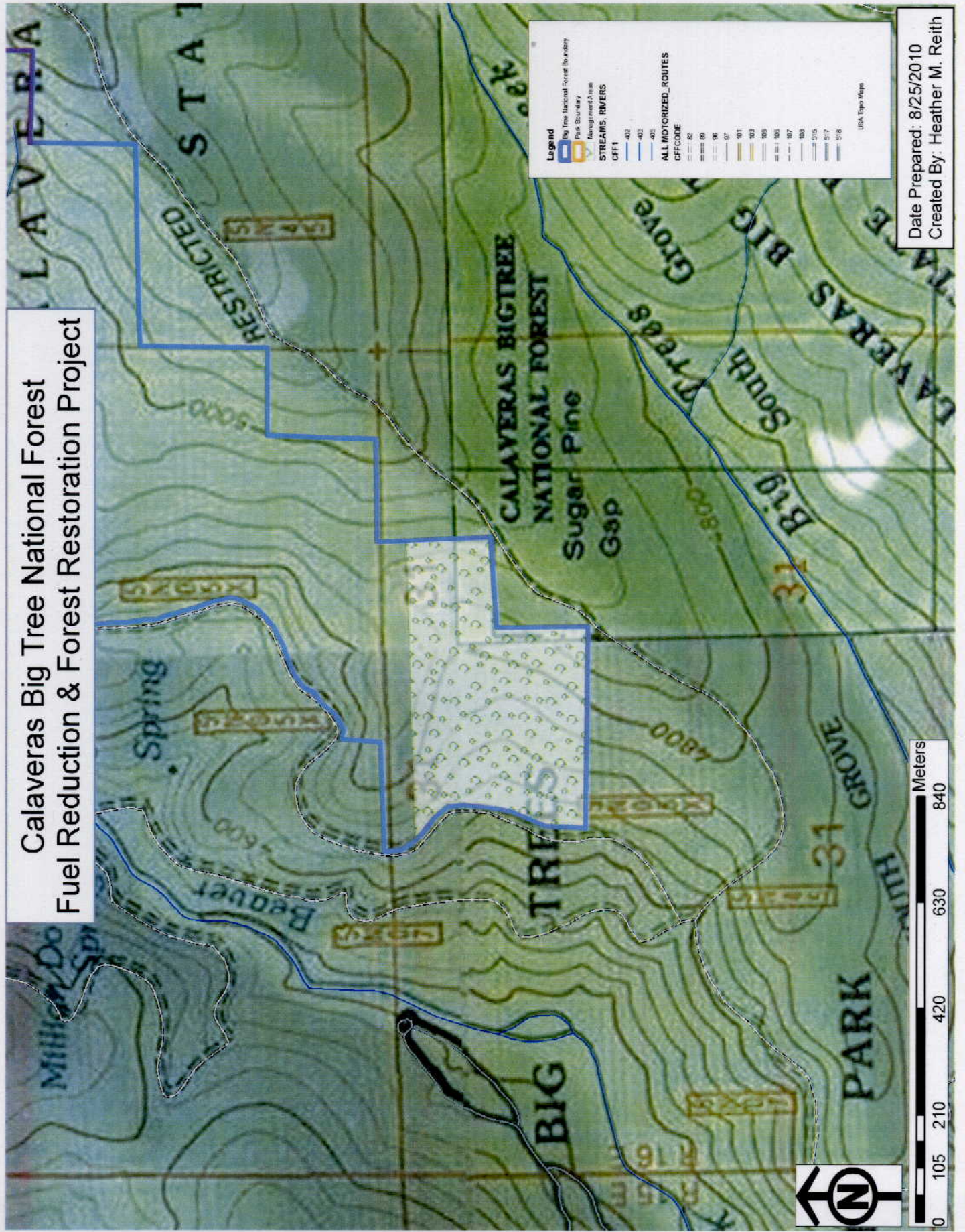
Example of an average sugar pine in the BTNF with understory fuels in background

Calaveras Big Tree National Forest Fuel Reduction & Forest Restoration Project



Date Prepared: 8/25/2010
Created By: Heather M. Reith

Calaveras Big Tree National Forest Fuel Reduction & Forest Restoration Project



Date Prepared: 8/25/2010
Created By: Heather M. Reith

Photo #1
***View of Understory from Accessible boardwalk located in the North Grove-
Calaveras Big Trees State Park***



Photo #2
***View of understory showing dogwoods beginning to choke out the Giant
Sequoia located in the background - North Grove- Calaveras Big Trees
State Park***

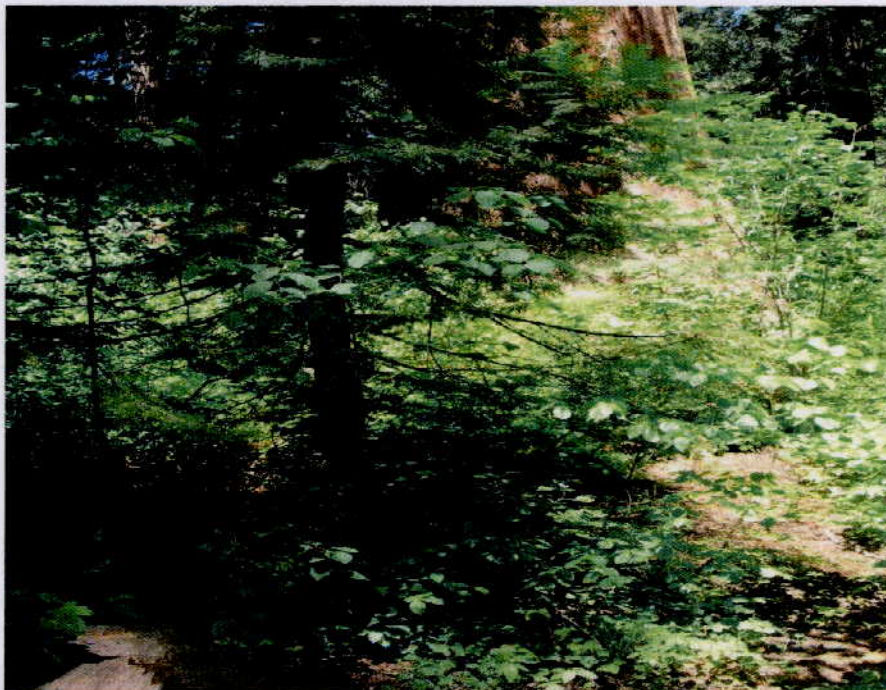
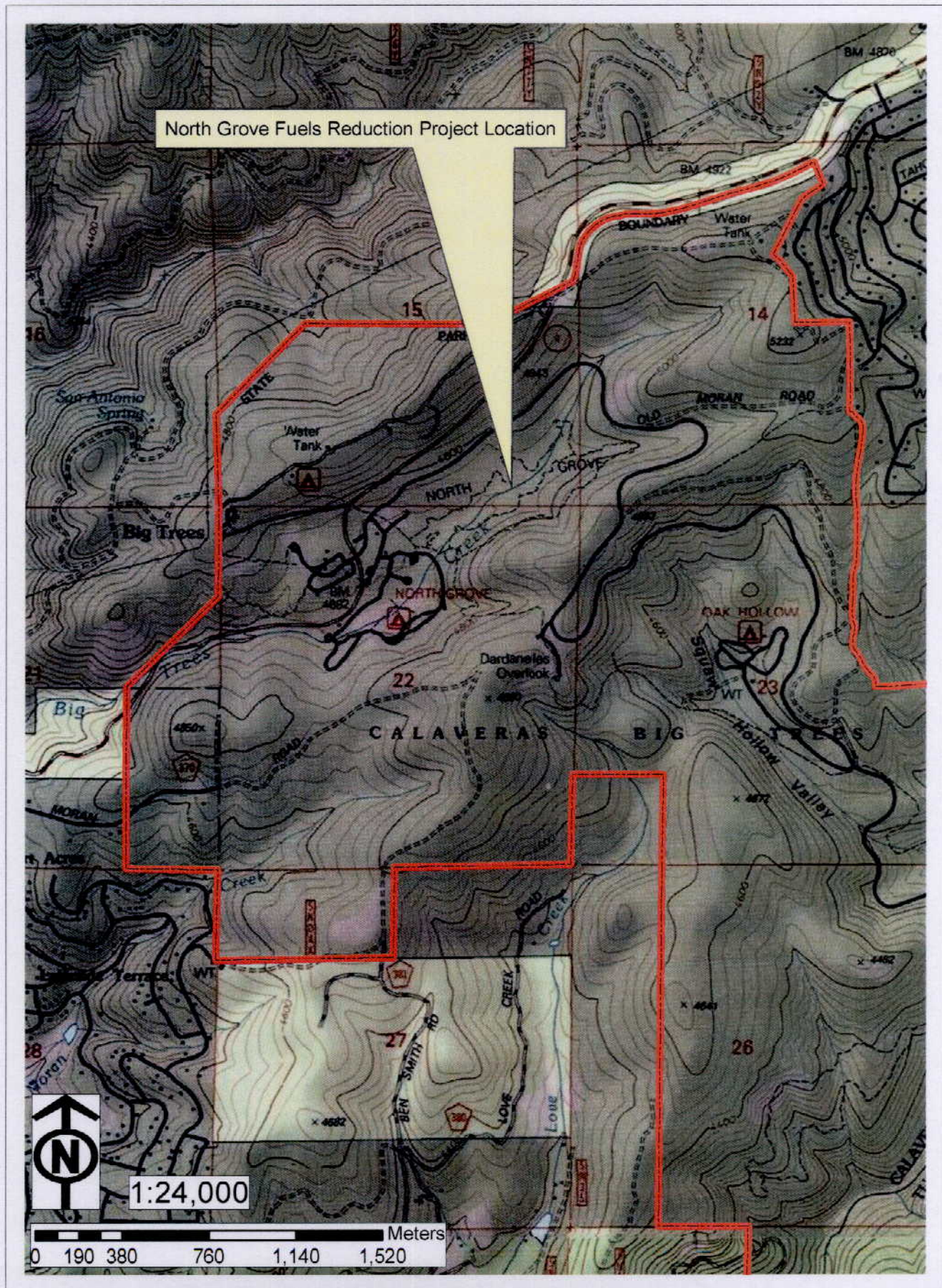


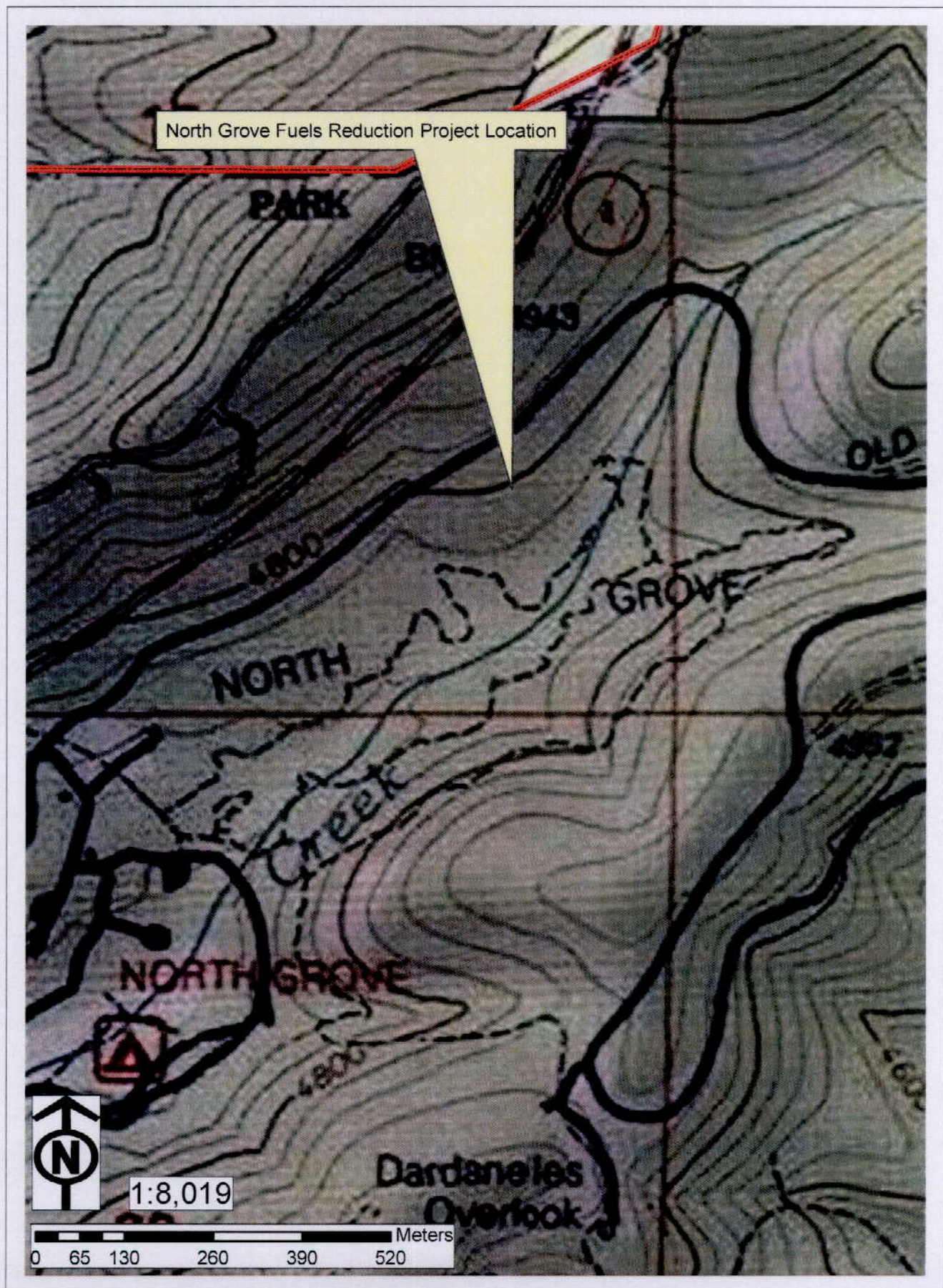
Photo #3
Heavy fuel loads (dogwood) located in the understory of the North Grove
Preserve – Calaveras Big Trees State Park



North Grove Fuels Reduction Project



North Grove Fuels Reduction Project



Calaveras Big Trees Association

January 5, 2012

Mr. Jim Branham
Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mr. Branham,

As the president of the Calaveras Big Trees Association (CBTA), I am writing in support of the Proposition 84 competitive grant application being made by Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

CBTA is a non-profit 501c3 corporation established in 1974. The mission of our organization is to provide funds to support the educational and interpretive programs presented at the park. The maintenance of the health and functioning of the various ecosystems within the Park are of utmost importance to CBTA, and I feel any corrective or enhancement measures that could be funded are certainly very worthwhile endeavors.

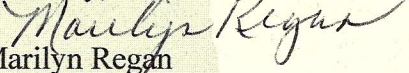
I understand that State Parks is seeking grant funding for the North Grove Forest Restoration Project. Calaveras Big Trees State Park is one of the most historically and ecologically special units in the State Park system. The North Grove is considered throughout the world as the location of the discovery of the largest tree species on the planet, giant sequoia.

Our interpretive programs are highly focused around the North Grove area with hundreds of public interpretive hikes, campfire programs, and children's educational programs and events taking place each year. The restoration of this magnificent forest stand will open up new interpretive opportunities, creating a more natural forest for visual and biological observations, and help CBTA continue the 38 year history of excellent interpretive services.

In addition, a new visitor center is in the construction phase at the edge of the North Grove and this restoration project will enhance the view from this interpretive center by clearing the thickets of vegetation so that the visitors can see the famous trees. This project will help CBTA to continue our overall commitment to "provide programs that enable visitors to understand, appreciate, conserve, enjoy and explore" the giant sequoia ecosystem.

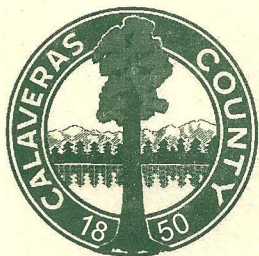
Therefore, I urge your support for the North Grove Forest Restoration Project grant proposal.

Sincerely,


Marilyn Regan
President, Calaveras Big Trees Association
(Home) 209-795-7385

PO Box 1196 • Arnold, CA 95223 • 209/795-3840 • fax 209/795-6680

*A nonprofit association dedicated to the interpretation of human and natural history at Calaveras Big Trees State Park,
in cooperation with the California State Park System. Contributions are tax deductible.*



CALAVERAS COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

891 Mountain Ranch Road

San Andreas, California 95249

(209) 754-6370

FAX (209) 754-6733

January 6, 2012

Mr. Jim Branham
Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board
11521 Blocker Drive – Suite 205
Auburn 95603

Re: Calaveras Big Trees State Park
Prop 84 Healthy Forests Restoration Grant

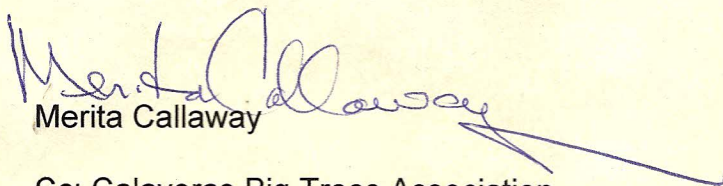
Mr. Branham:

The giant sequoia in the North Grove of Calaveras Big Trees State Park needs the help of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Restoration Grant. These majestic trees cannot regenerate without natural or managed periodic, low-intensity fire to eliminate duff and debris.

With a century of fire suppression in the Sierra Nevada, the North Grove has an unnatural buildup of shrubs and small trees which is placing Big Trees in a threat of high fire danger. This not only impacts the park but the neighborhoods of Arnold and Dorrington.

The residents and visitors to Big Trees, recognize the work that the park has done on prior projects to be a partner in fire protection to our area while promoting the native species, such as the Pacific Yew, protecting wildlife species such as the California spotted owl pairs and flying squirrels who are dependent on a mature forest, and of course the park's efforts to restore and protect our old growth giant sequoia and mixed conifer forest.

On behalf of the park, the Ebbetts Pass community, and our many visitors, we hope this grant will be supported. Thank you.


Merita Callaway

Cc: Calaveras Big Trees Association
Greater Arnold Business Association

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS**Executive Office**

1719 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 341-3207 FAX (877) 315-5085
www.ccc.ca.gov



January 11, 2012

Mr. Jim Branham
Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mr. Branham,

I would like to provide my support for the Proposition 84 Grant application being submitted by the California State Parks, Calaveras Big Trees. The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has been an integral partner with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) on past projects.

The grant funding the park is seeking greatly furthers the fire protection and promotes a healthy forest environment. The North Grove forest is currently overgrown with a thick stand of Dogwood trees that is negatively impacting the visitor experience. This is occurring due to the visual screen the Dogwoods are creating. During our walk on the trail the trees were so thick the view of the Redwood tree trunks was near impossible.

This grant opportunity will give corps members the opportunity to gain work skills and proficiency through work learned training. The CCC has a long history of working in state parks and providing the training needed to young adults. This project will provide the type of work environment that promotes self sufficiency and respect for the natural environment. Conservation of the natural environment through valuable projects such as this is the cornerstone of the CCC.

The CCC is very grateful and supportive of this partnership and we look forward to many years of cooperative efforts to achieve our common goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Al Orozco'.

Al Orozco
Conservation Supervisor
Greenwood/Stockton Center

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit
785 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249
(209) 754-3831
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



January 11, 2012

Mr. Jim Branham
Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mr. Branham:

I would like to take this opportunity to urge your support of the Proposition 84 competitive grant application being made by Calaveras Big Trees State Park (CBTSP). As the Cal Fire Division Chief responsible for fire suppression at the park, I recognize that such planning will assist Cal Fire and enhance our ability to suppress wildfires within park boundaries. In addition, any actions taken within the park to reduce wildfire risk will generate significant public benefit, especially in the surrounding communities of Arnold and Dornington. Lastly, any work done to reduce fire risk would not only facilitate fire suppression but should also reduce any associated damage to vegetative and soil resources.

The park has already completed many projects that have improved Cal Fire's fire response capability while providing additional protection to surrounding private lands. These projects have also met the park's objective of restoring old growth forests.

I hope that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will recognize the importance of the proposed projects to the park, the surrounding community, and the region. I urge your support for the North Grove Forest Restoration Project grant proposal, and thank you for the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,

Vivian De La Rosa
Division Chief, Cal Fire
Vallecito Conservation Camp
3225 Six mile Road
Angels Camp, CA 95222
209-736-2553



Sierra Pacific Industries

Sonora Division • P.O. Box 247 • Standard, CA 95373-0247 • (209) 532-7141

January 12, 2012

Mr. Jim Branham
Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mr. Branham:

I would like to take this opportunity to urge your support of the Proposition 84 competitive grant application being made by Calaveras Big Trees State Park seeking funding for the North Grove Forest Restoration Project. As the manager of Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) lands surrounding and adjacent to the Park, the maintenance of the health and functioning of the various ecosystems within the Park are of keen interest, and I feel any corrective or enhancement measures that could be funded are certainly very worthwhile endeavors.

In the interest of being "Good Neighbors", SPI has collaborated with the Park on numerous endeavors beneficial to their interests. For several years we have joined with the Park in the collection and processing of seed from over 30 sugar pines within the Park that are genetically resistant to white pine blister rust. Recently, we sold over 320 acres adjacent to the Park to Save the Redwoods League for eventual annexing onto the Park; and more recently we gained approval on a Timber Harvest Plan that will include shaded fuelbreaks and forest thinning/fuels reduction treatments on our lands southeast of the Park to afford the Calaveras South Grove Natural Preserve greater protection from the potential threat of wildfire. Our plans are to undertake that work this year.

Calaveras Big Trees State Park is a treasure visited by many thousands of people from all over the world every year. Any and all efforts to assure the continued enjoyment of this pristine part of the Sierra Nevada are certainly perfectly suited to the mission of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. I urge your support for the North Grove Forest Restoration Project grant proposal, and thank you for the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,

Tim M. Tate
District Manager, Sonora & Martell Districts
Sierra Pacific Industries



Calaveras Foothills Fire Safe Council

P.O. Box 812
Murphys, CA 95247

January 3, 2012

Mr. Jim Branham
Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mr. Branham:

My name is Terry Woodrow, President of the Calaveras Foothills Fire Safe Council. I would like to take this opportunity to urge your support of the Proposition 84 competitive grant application being made by Calaveras Big Trees State Park (CBTSP). In addition, any actions taken within the park to reduce wildfire risk will generate significant public benefit, especially in the surrounding communities of Arnold and Dorrington. Lastly, any work done to reduce fire risk would not only facilitate fire suppression but should also reduce any associated damage to vegetative and soil resources.

The park has consistently provided fuel break projects that have greatly benefited the local communities. The Calaveras Foothills Fire Safe Council and Big Trees State Park have mutual goals and missions in fire protection, education and prevention.

I hope that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will recognize the importance of the proposed projects to the park, the surrounding community, and the region. I urge your support for the North Grove Forest Restoration Project grant proposal, and thank you for the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry Woodrow".



January 12, 2012

Mr. Jim Branham
Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mr. Branham:

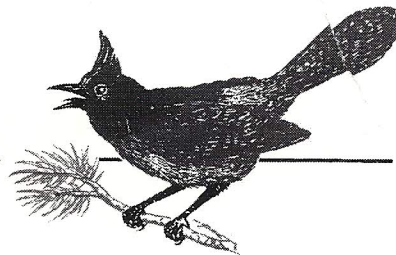
I would like to take this opportunity to urge your support of the Proposition 84 competitive grant application being made by Calaveras Big Trees State Park. I am the Senior Conservation Planner for Save the Redwoods League, a private, non-profit organization established in 1918 with the mission "to protect and restore redwood forests and to connect people with their peace and beauty so these wonders of the natural world flourish." The maintenance of the health and functioning of the various ecosystems within Calaveras Big Trees State Park are of utmost importance to Save the Redwoods League, and I feel any corrective or enhancement measures that could be funded are extremely worthwhile endeavors.

I understand that California State Parks is seeking grant funding for the North Grove Forest Restoration Project, a 125-acre multi-objective restoration project. Calaveras Big Trees State Park, and the North Grove in particular, is one of the most historically and ecologically special units in the California State Parks system. The North Grove is considered throughout the world as the location of the discovery of the most massive tree species on the planet, giant sequoia. Since the giant sequoia is essentially dependent upon fire for reproduction and the tiny seed must fall on mineral soil if the seedlings are to become established, projects that perpetuate the processes that are integral to the functioning of a healthy, dynamic, and natural ecosystem are encouraged and supported by the Save the Redwoods League.

I have met with Calaveras Big Trees State Park staff in the past and have heard their concerns regarding fire ecology and conservation management of the giant sequoia groves. Save the Redwoods League helped to found Calaveras Big Trees State Park in 1931 and considers protection of the giant sequoias and their ecosystems within the park of utmost importance. I urge your support for the North Grove Forest Restoration Project grant proposal, and thank you for the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,

Laura Kindsvater
Senior Conservation Planner
114 Sansome St, Suite 1200
San Francisco, CA 94104-3823
415-820-5826
lkindsvater@SaveTheRedwoods.org



January 6, 2012

Mr. Jim Branham
Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Mr. Branham:

On behalf of the Central Sierra Audubon Society, I would like to take this opportunity to urge your support of the Proposition 84 competitive grant application being made by Calaveras Big Trees State Park (CBTSP). Our Society is a private, non-profit organization established with the mission... "to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity".

I understand that State Parks is seeking grant funding for the North Grove Forest Restoration Project, a 125 acre multi-objective restoration project in the CBTSP and the North Grove in particular. I understand that the giant sequoia is essentially dependent upon fire for reproduction and the tiny seed must fall on mineral soil if the seedlings are to become established. Projects that perpetuate the processes that are integral to the functioning of a healthy, dynamic, and natural ecosystem are encouraged and supported by Audubon. For too long both the Forest Service and our own State Park system have suppressed fires, resulting in far too much undergrowth.

The North Grove is home to California spotted owls, northern goshawks, pilated woodpeckers, northern flying squirrels and many more wildlife species dependent upon an open understory, high canopy-cover mature forest system. The maintenance of the health and functioning of the various ecosystems within Calaveras Big Trees State Park are of utmost importance to Audubon.

I urge your support for the North Grove Forest Restoration Project grant proposal, and thank you for the opportunity to do so.

Sincerely,

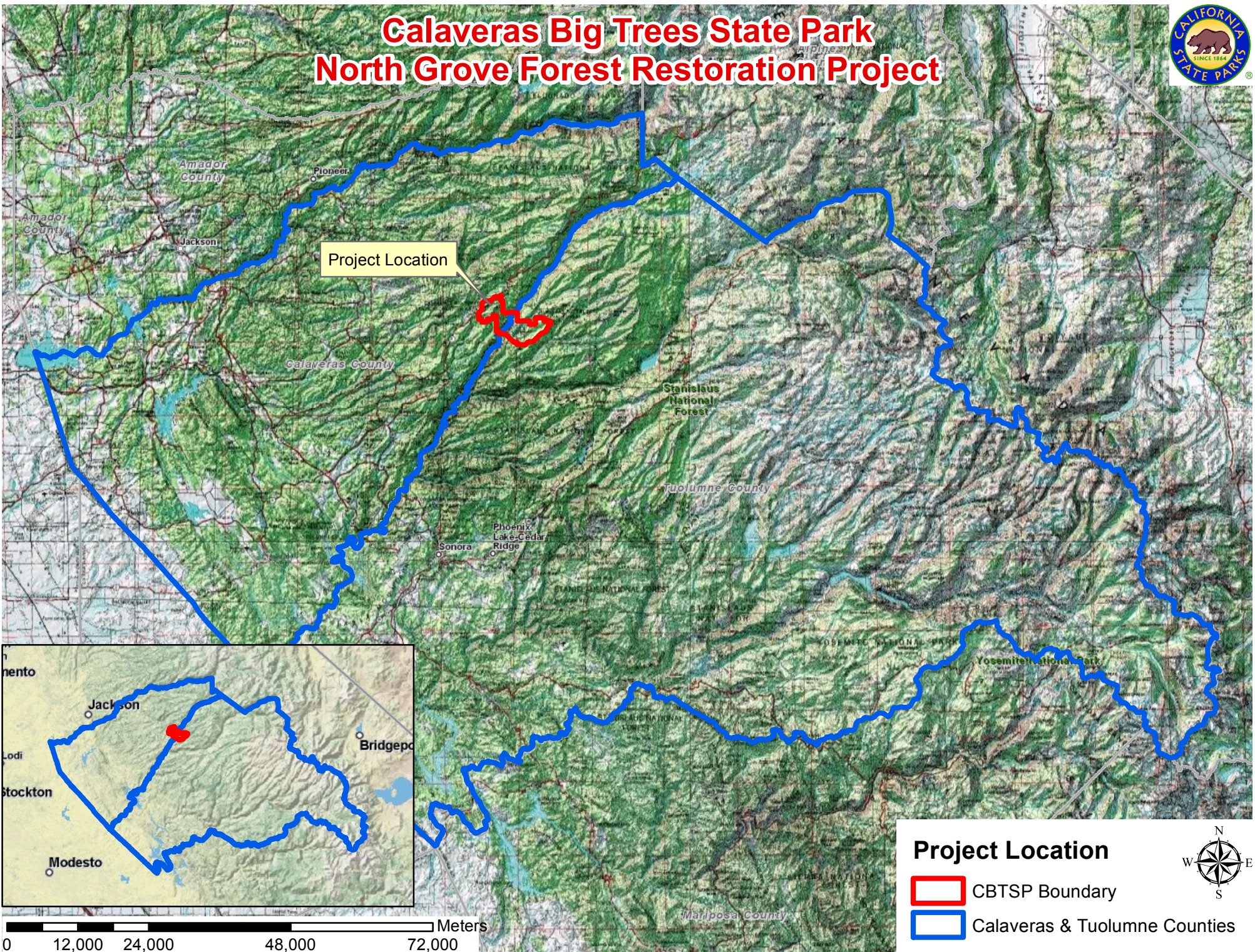
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Parrington", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Parrington
Vice President and Conservation Committee Chair
209-928-3835
eattep@sbcglobal.net



Long-Term Management Plan:

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to the continued maintenance and embellishment of fuel reduction projects at Calaveras Big Trees State Park through annual inspections of past project sites and the ongoing restoration either by hand-removal and pile burning or by the re-introduction of low intensity broadcast burning. The prescribed fire management program at CBT was initiated in 1975 as an effort to restore the role fire naturally played in the forest ecosystem. The Sierra redwood is essentially dependent upon fire for reproduction, since the seeds are small and delicate and they must fall on mineral soil if the seedlings are to become established. Ponderosa pine, sugar pine and black oak are likewise dependent upon fire for successful recruitment. Collectively, the fire requirements of these species for the maintenance of healthy stands are one of the most important goals of prescribed fire management in the State Park System..." to perpetuate the processes integral to the functioning of a healthy, dynamic, and natural ecosystem". At Calaveras Big Trees State Park, it is further recognized that these processes are necessary to ensure Sierra redwood reproduction and grove regeneration for generations to come. Fire history studies at CBT and in other giant sequoia dominated stands, set the historic fire return interval range from 2 to 30 years, with a mean of 10 years (Swetnam, T.W. 1993. Fire history and climate change in giant sequoia groves. Science 262:885-889). The NGP area will be a priority for CBT resource managers, with the maintenance of the project area monitored and treated through low intensity controlled burning in a ten year historic pattern which will assure the long-term sustainability of this restoration project. The long-term management of the NGP may be funded in-house by the DPR Category H, On-Going Maintenance Program, DPR Stewardship Program or cooperative agreements with other State agencies.

Calaveras Big Trees State Park North Grove Forest Restoration Project



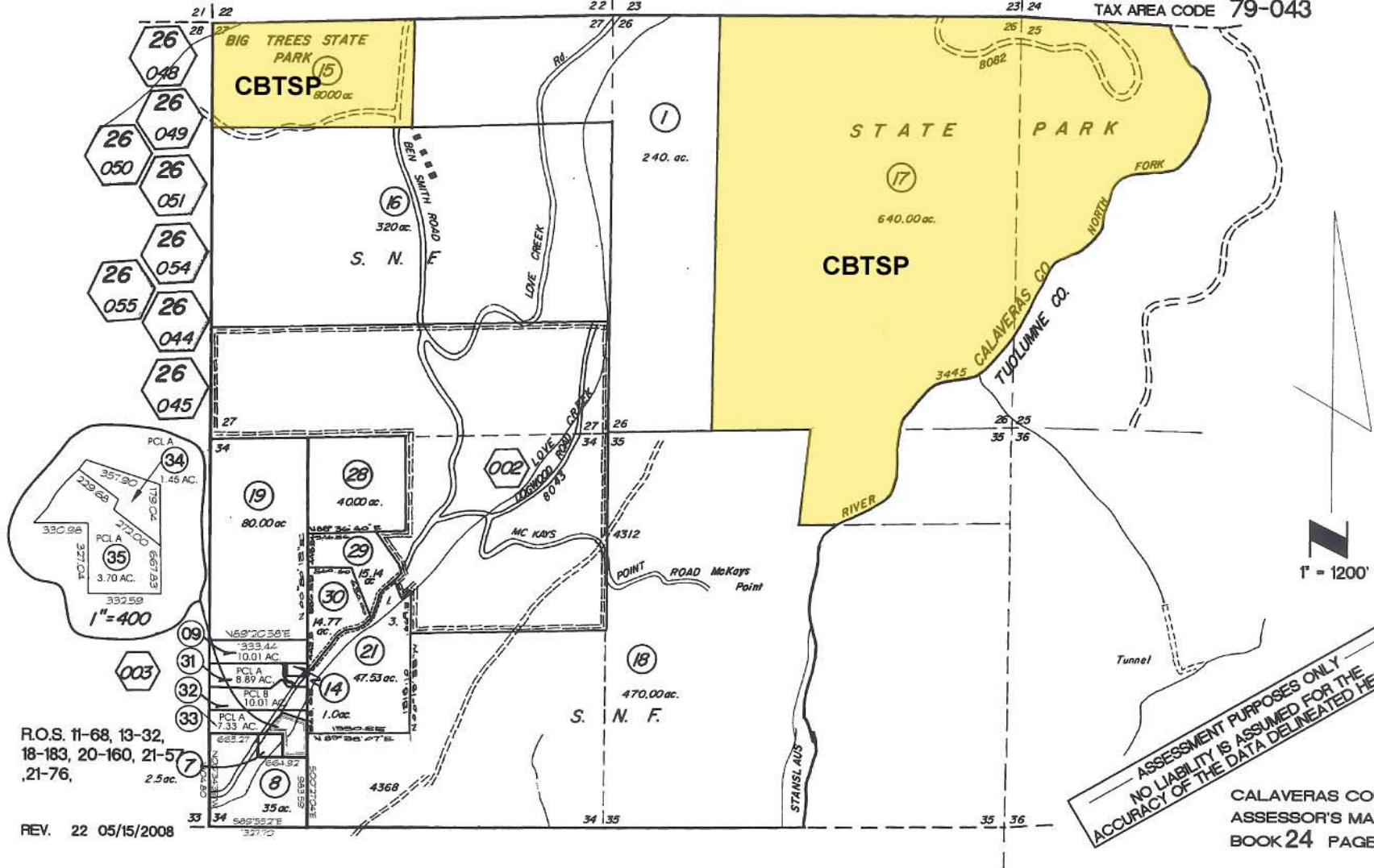
Project Location

-  CBTSP Boundary
-  Calaveras & Tuolumne Counties

T.5N., R.15E., SECS. 25,26,27,34,35

TAX AREA CODE 79-043

35



R.O.S. 11-68, 13-32,
18-183, 20-160, 21-57,
.21-76,

REV. 22 05/15/2008

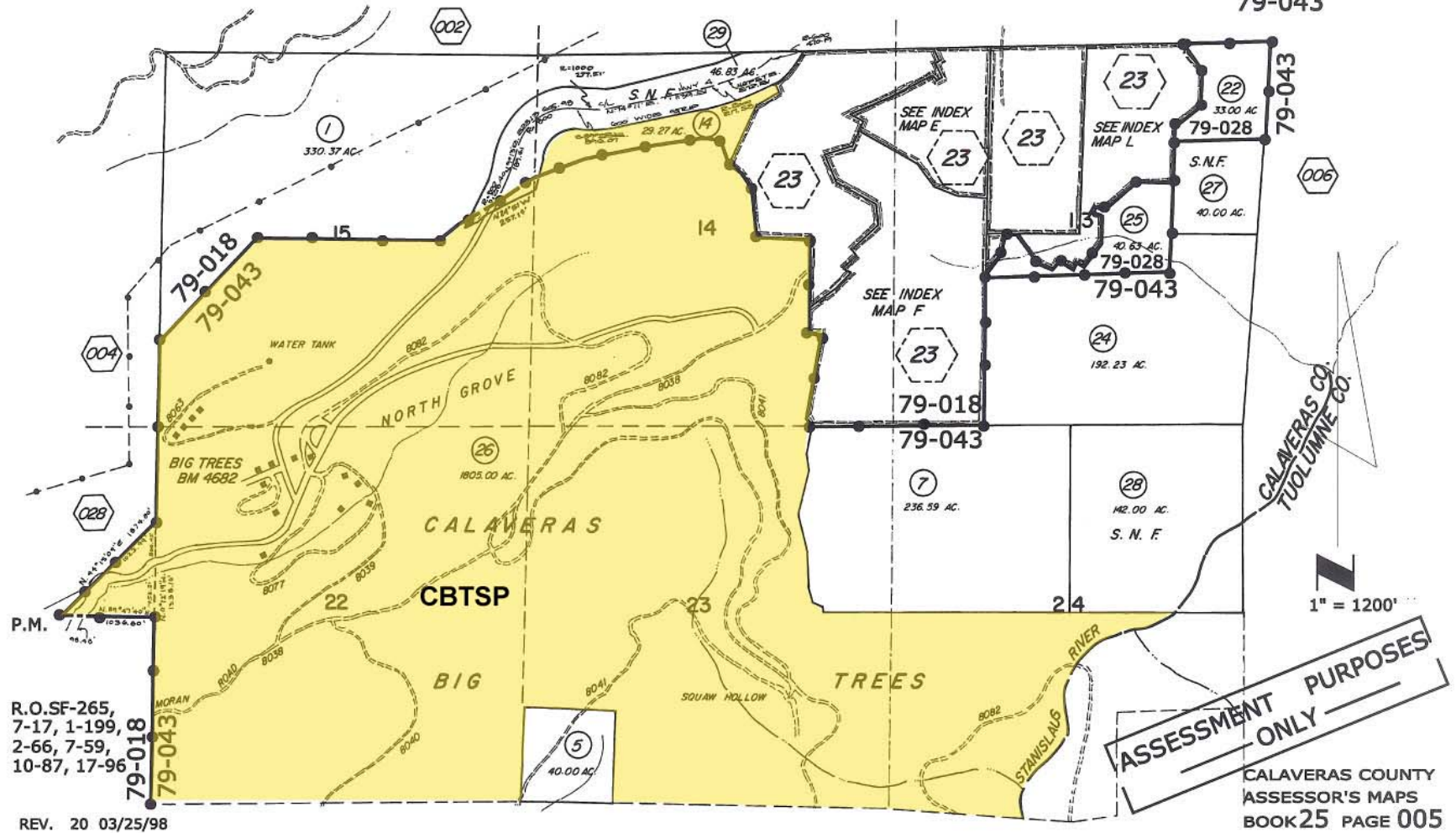
CALAVERAS COUNTY
ASSESSOR'S MAPS
BOOK 24 PAGE 001

JUN 05 2008

T.5N., R.15E. M.D.M. SECS. 13-15, 22-24

TAX AREA CODE 79-018, 79-028
79-043

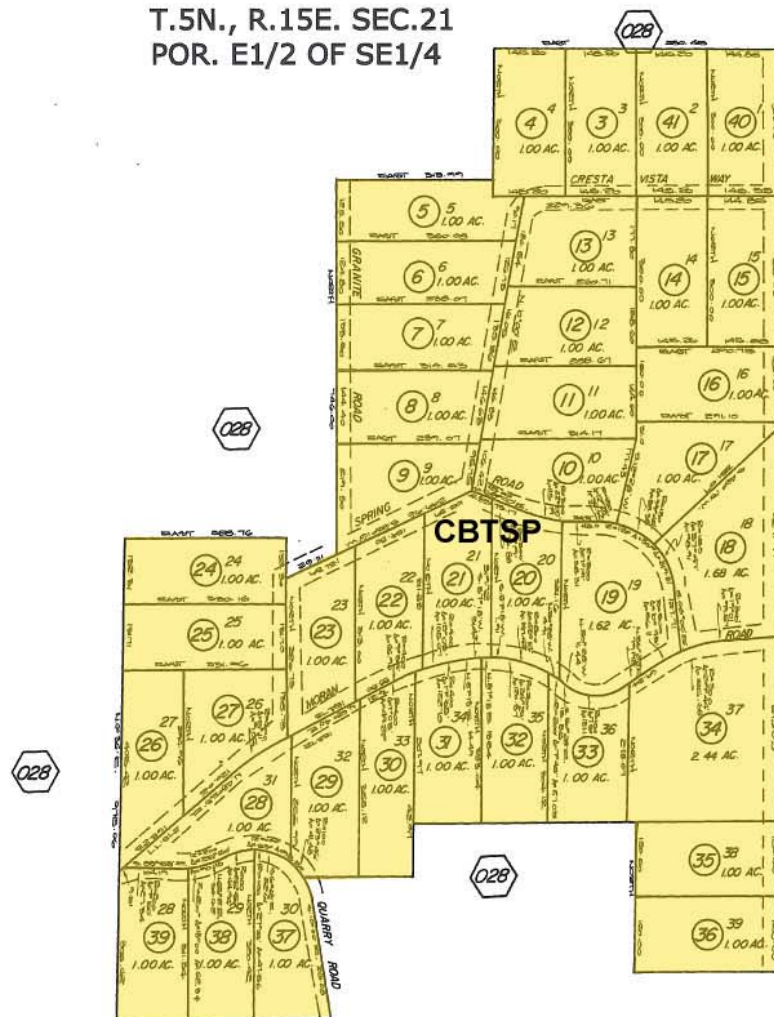
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T.5N., R.15E. SEC.21
POR. E1/2 OF SE1/4

TAX AREA CODE 79-018

41



MUMBERT ACRES

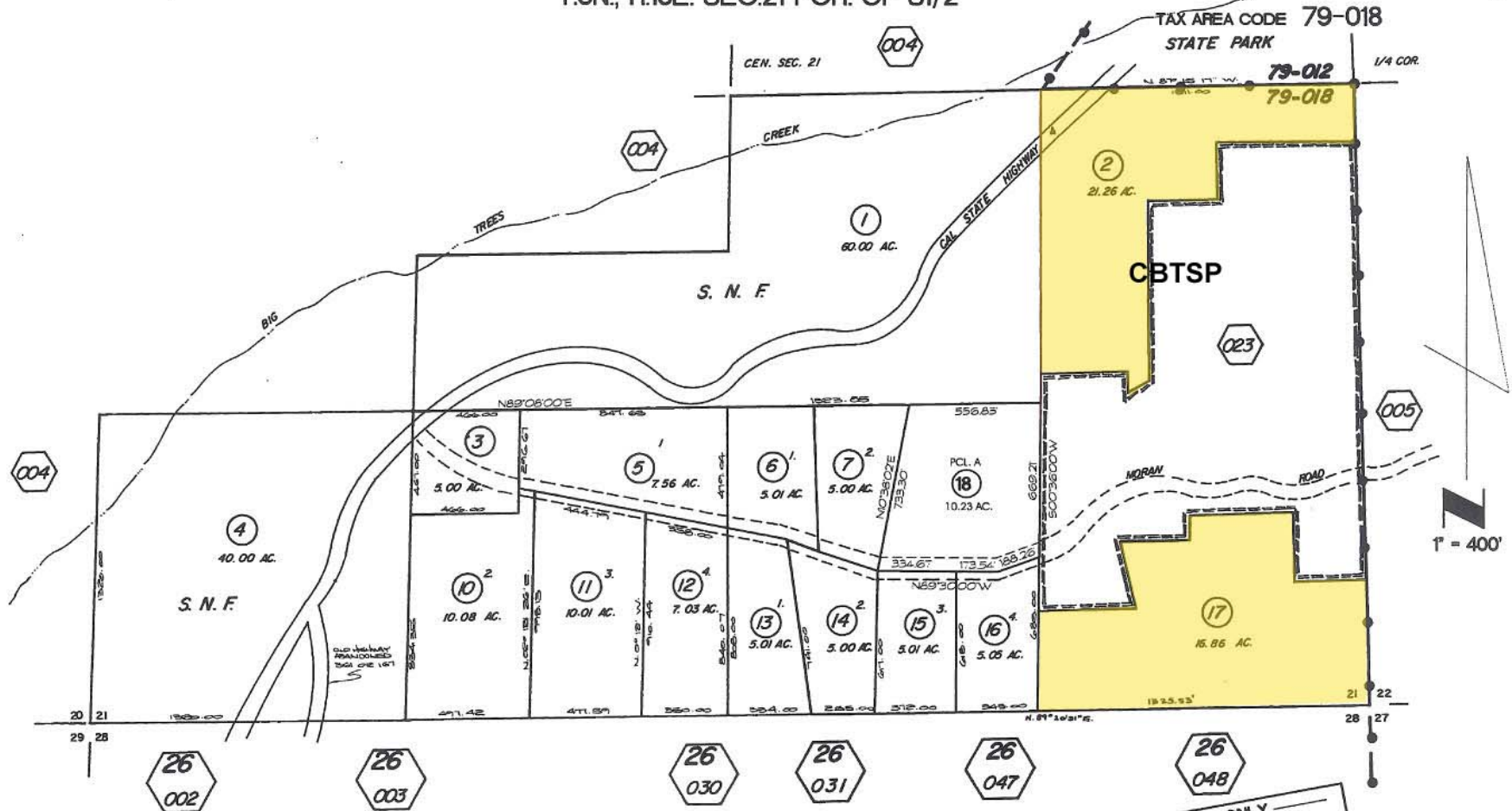
ASSESSMENT PURPOSES
ONLY

CALAVERAS COUNTY
ASSESSOR'S MAPS
BOOK 25 PAGE 023

REV. 4 01/21/88

T.5N., R.15E. SEC.21 POR. OF S1/2

18



R.O.S. 1-18, 1-177, 2-66, 5-56, 5-88, 5-139, 16-106
P.M. 1-97, 1-124, 1-135, 1-149, 11-198

REV. 6 11/23/05

ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY
NO LIABILITY IS ASSUMED FOR THE
ACCURACY OF THE DATA DELINEATED HEREON

CALAVERAS COUNTY
ASSESSOR'S MAPS
BOOK 25 PAGE 028

DEC 05 2005

T. 5 N., R. 16 E., M. D. B. & M.

120° 12' 30"

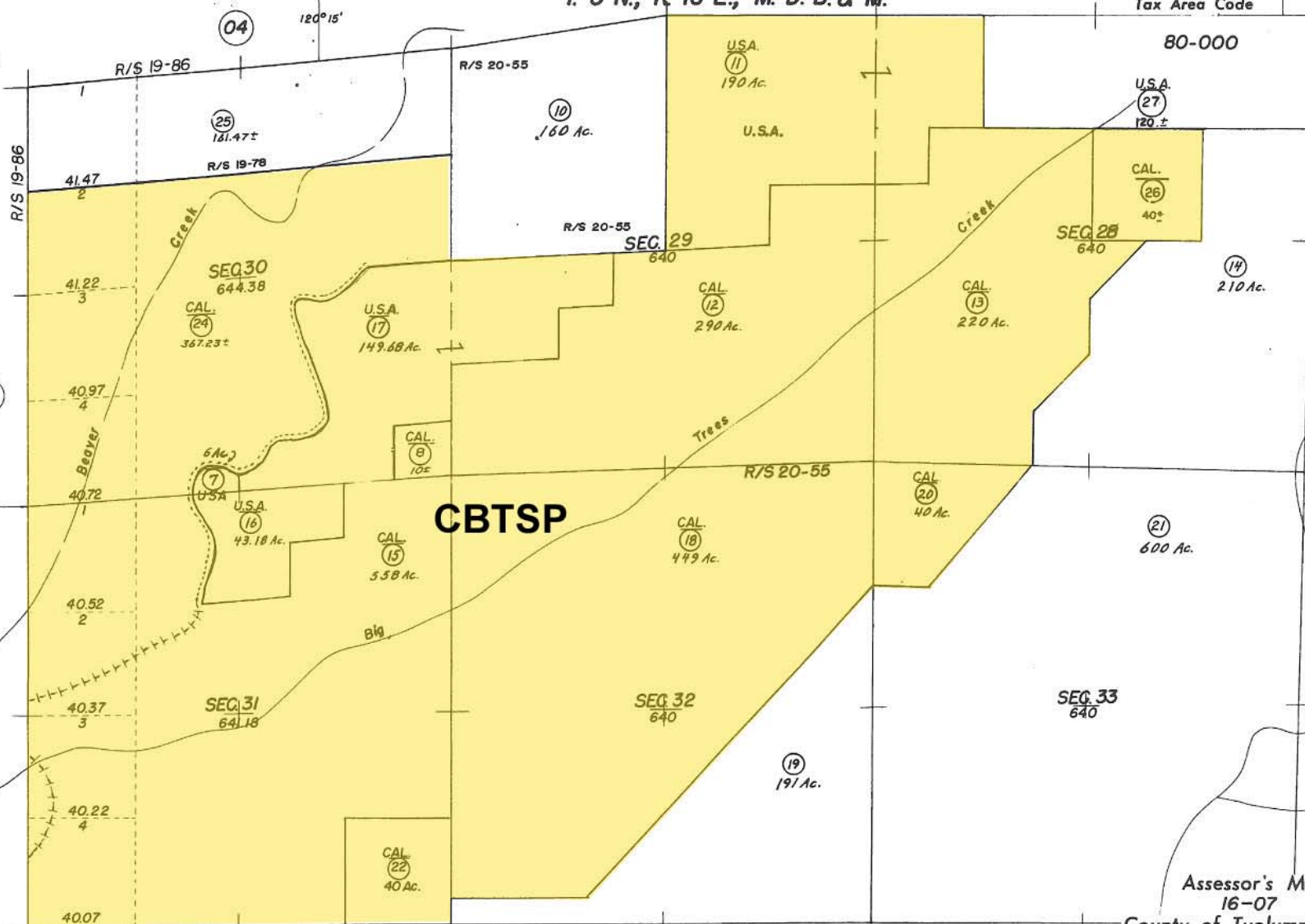
16-07

27

REVISION DATE
2-23-94

Tax Area Code

80-000



CBTSP

Note: This Plat Is For Assessment Pur-
poses Only And Not An Official Map

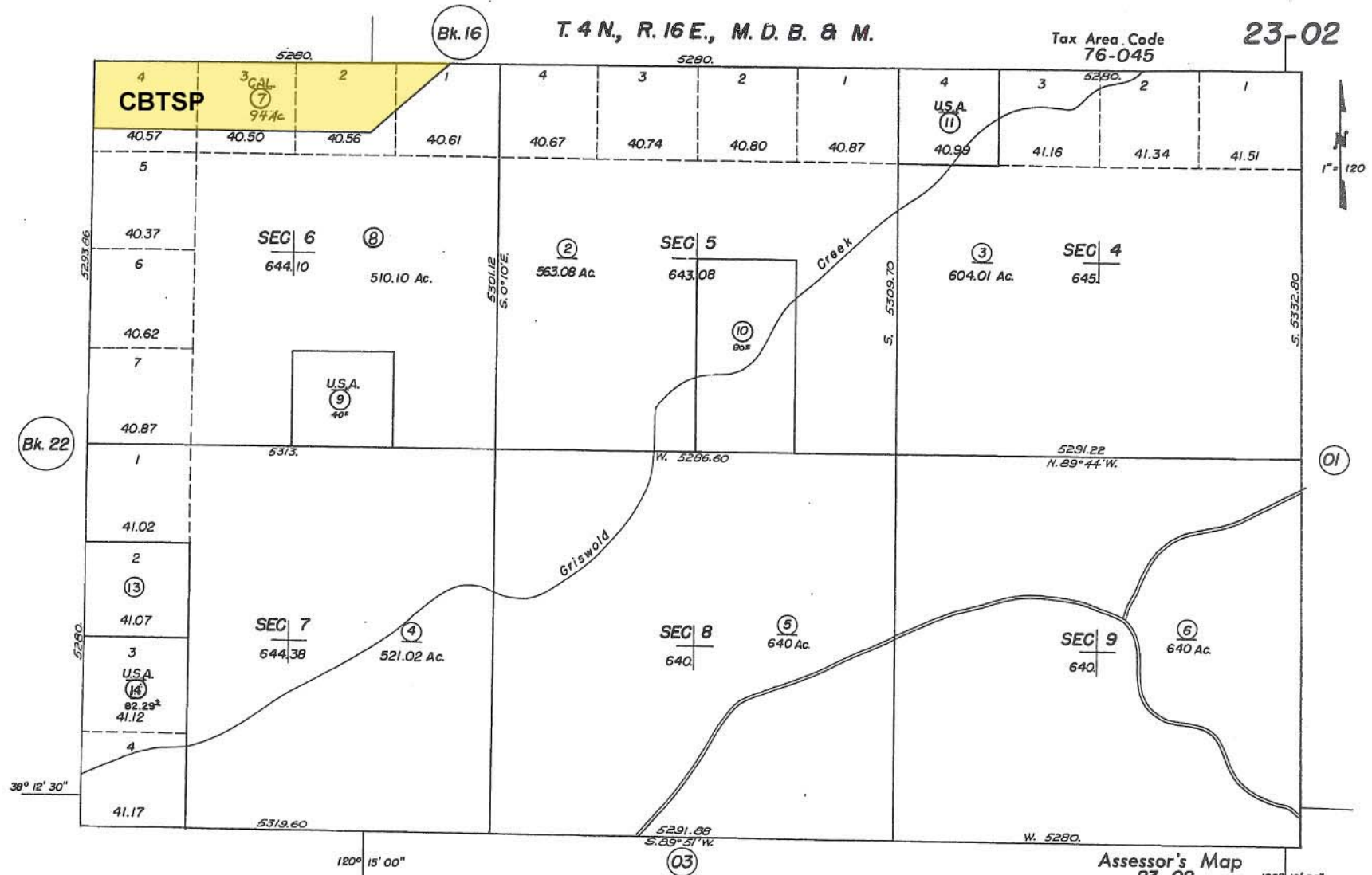
Bk. 23

NOTE - ASSESSOR'S BLOCK
& LOT NUMBERS
SHOWN IN CIRCLES

Assessor's Map
16-07
County of Tuolumne, Calif.
1949

14

REVISION DATE
2-24-98

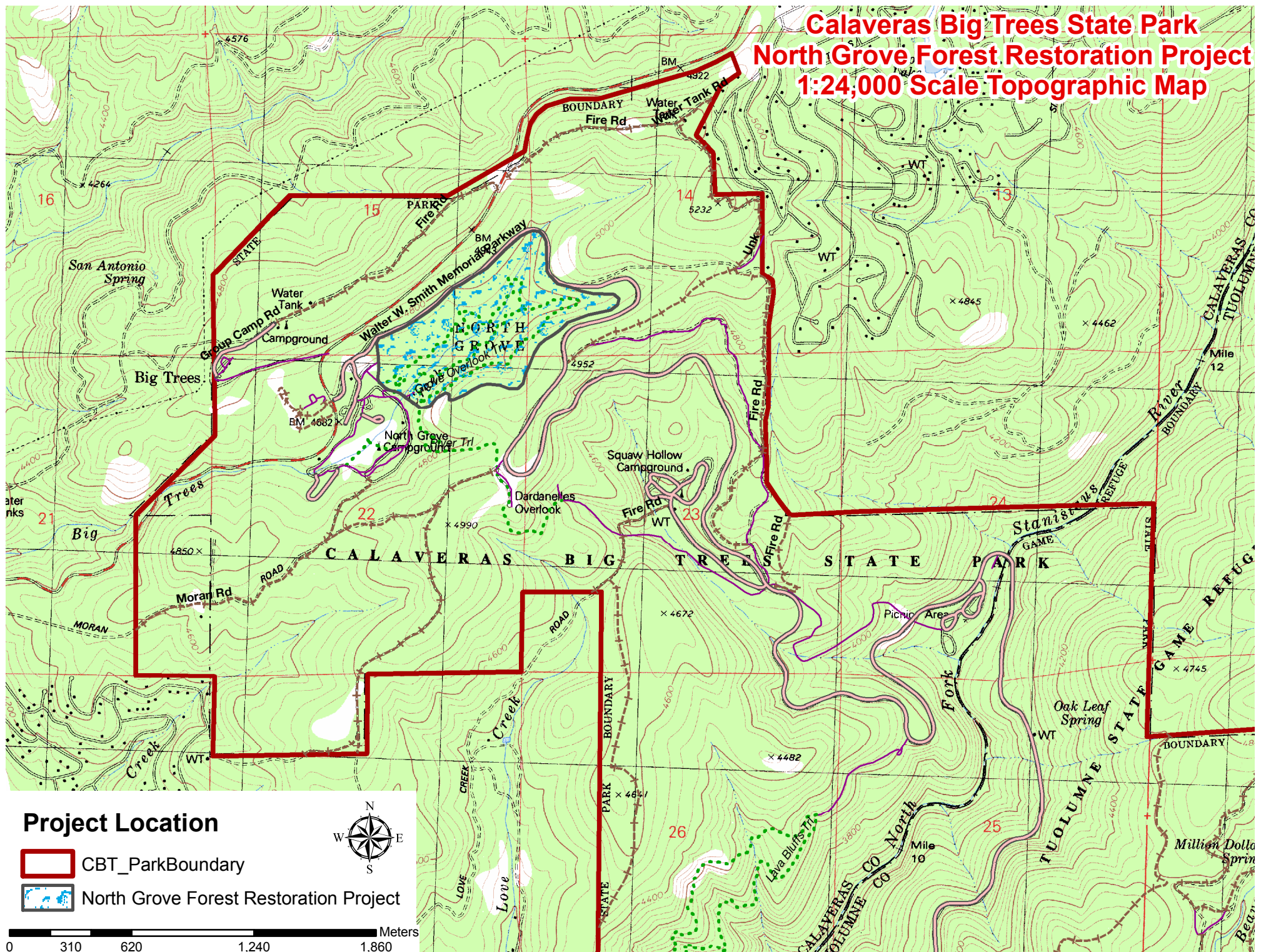


Note: This Plat Is For Assessment Pur-
poses Only And Not An Official Map

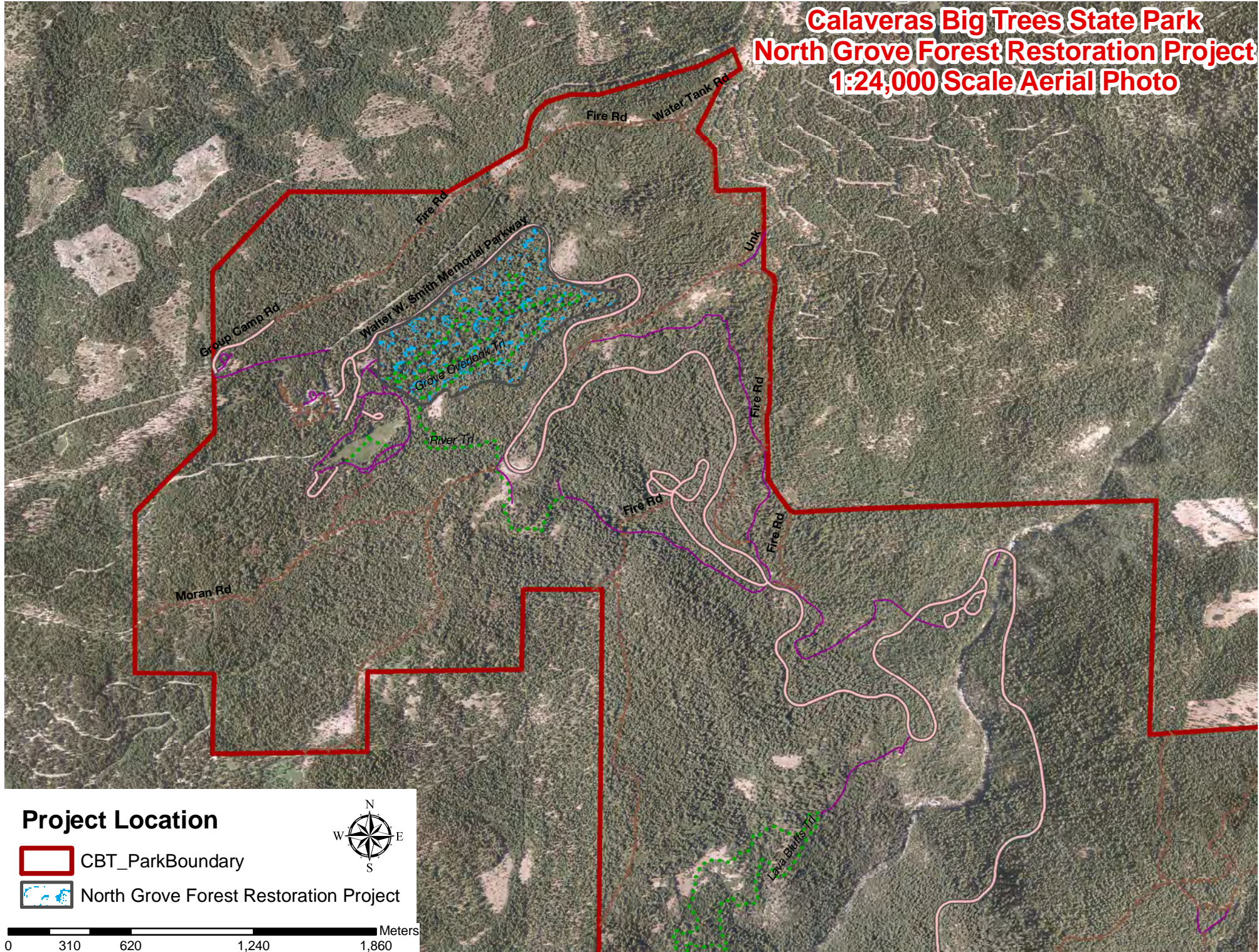
NOTE - ASSESSOR'S BLOCK
& LOT NUMBERS
SHOWN IN CIRCLES

**Assessor's Map
23-02
County of Tuolumne, Calif.
1949**



Calaveras Big Trees State Park North Grove Forest Restoration Project 1:24,000 Scale Topographic Map



**Calaveras Big Trees State Park
North Grove Forest Restoration Project
1:24,000 Scale Aerial Photo**



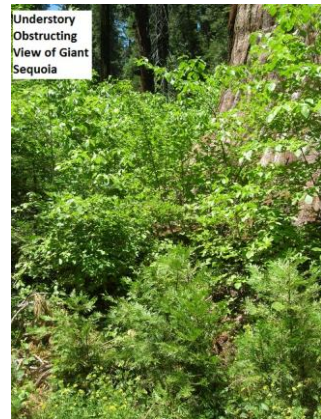
Project Location

-  CBT_ParkBoundary
-  North Grove Forest Restoration Project



0 310 620 1,240 1,860 Meters







View of Giant
Sequoia From
North Grove
Trail



Example of Heavy
Understory Fuels





Pacific Yew with
Heavy Surface
Fuels









Surface Fuels Along the
North Grove Boardwalk